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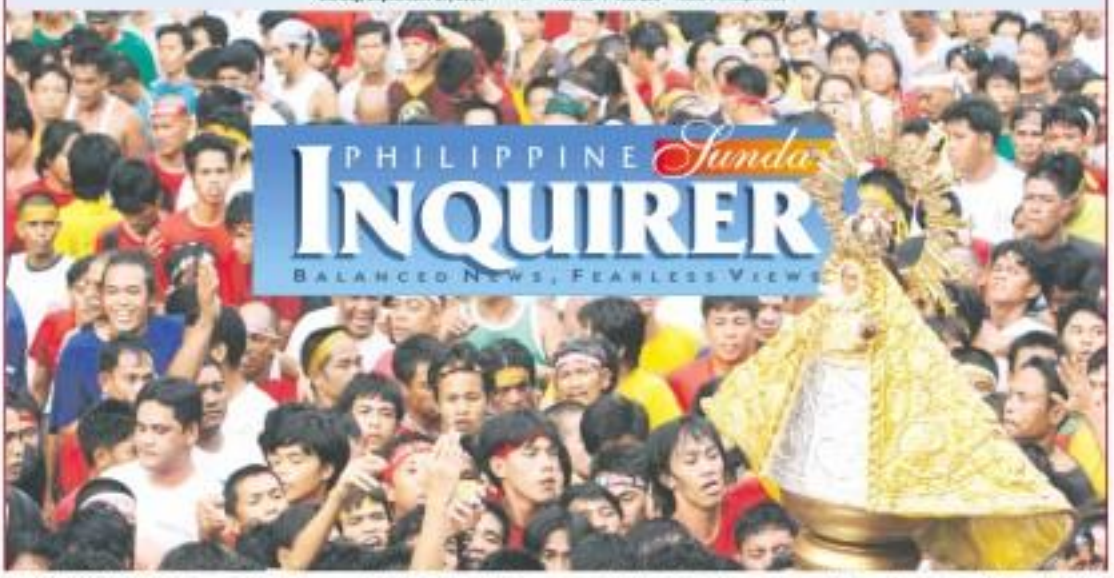

FIRST LADY OF BICOLANDIA Thousands of devotees join a procession in Naga City, Camarines Sur, to convey our Lady of Peñafrancia, the patroness of Bicolandia, toward the Naga River for the traditional fluvial parade on her feast day on Saturday. Bicolanos celebrate the feast of their beloved patroness ardently. But the annual religious activity has also become one of the biggest tourist attractions in Bicol. NINO JESUS ORBETA

'Mother of all bailouts'

Silver lining: US turmoil could be good for Asians

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE US FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS spawned speculation that it could push emerging economies like the Philippines into a downturn, but a senior academic from Singapore believes otherwise.

According to Kishore Mahbubani, the dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the turmoil in the West could be a source of optimism for Asians.

"Actually, the effect of the crisis in the United States could be the opposite. The crisis could in fact lead to a change in the mindset of foreign investors in favor of emerging economies," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

Mahbubani, who visited Manila last week to deliver a talk on economics and public policy at the Asian Development Bank headquarters in the Ortigas Center, is a former ambassador of Singapore to the United Nations and a former president of the UN Security Council.

He is the author of the recently published book "The New Asian Hemisphere," which discusses the rise of Asia as co-driver of the world economy together with Western countries.

Mahbubani encouraged Filipinos and other Asians to be positive amid the turmoil in the West.

He said any negative effects on emerging economies could simply be knee-jerk, short-term impacts, and that in the long term, investors would see the benefits of doing more business in these economies.

Mahbubani praised China's agri-

SILVER A4

Rescue plan takes markets from panic to euphoria

NEW YORK—THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF A TURBULENT week on Wall Street have made traders dizzy, but analysts are looking for a calmer ride in the coming week as the market digests the latest efforts to battle the financial market firestorm.

The mood has shifted from panic to euphoria as the financial system fires up. But some say the crisis in markets shows signs of easing following what the financial industry described as the "mother of all bailouts."

The major indexes ended little changed despite the unprecedented volatility.

The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.28 percent on the week to 11,388.46 after big rallies Thursday and Friday encouraged heavy losses earlier in the week.

The broad-market Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.27 percent to 1,255.08 and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite managed a gain of 0.56 percent to 2,273.90.

"I'm not sure I've ever seen such volatility," said Andy Brooks, head of trading at T. Rowe Price, after one hectic back-and-forth session.

The historic week came as Wall Street giant Lehman Brothers collapsed after failing to find a buyer and the US government offered an $85-billion-dollar lifeline to insurance giant AIG to stave off a financial market tsunami. Meanwhile, Merrill Lynch made an emergency deal to sell itself

HISTORY A6

Robin Padilla's girl in Mindanao: Why is there war?

INNOCENT ABROAD "I have never seen such suffering," says Quennie Padilla, 17, who represents her father Robin Padilla in food distribution to evacuees.

By Quennie Sicangco Padilla
Contributor

Editor's Note: The author, 17, is the eldest daughter of actor Robin Padilla and Liezle Sicangco. She came home to Manila in November 2007 after completing high school in Australia, where she lived for eight years with her mother and siblings.

EARLY THIS MONTH I JOINED A RELief operation in war-affected areas in Mindanao. It was my initiation to social responsibility.

Having spent my childhood in Australia, I had yet to be exposed to communities less privileged in terms of livelihood and social benefits for their residents. And after long months of training in acting, music and the martial arts, I felt I had to move on to the next level of my personal development.

It was past noon of Sept. 13 when I, representing my father, Robin Padilla, the current president of the Lingunsod Kapuspusan Foundation Inc., boarded a Philippine Airlines flight to Cotabato City.

I was in the company of an uncle, an aunt, a cousin, the foundation's administrator, and our host, Hanna Palmabang of the Office on Muslim Affairs.

Our destinations: Pikit in North Cotabato and Datu Piang and Talayan in Maguindanao.

In Cotabato City, we proceeded to the market to buy the commodities that we were to distribute to families displaced by the fighting and were now staying in evacuation areas.

Packing the canned goods, rice, bread, coffee and sugar took us until the wee hours of the following day. A group of young artists in the city helped us pack the stuff.

ROBIN A6

New docs give something back: 2 years in barrios

By Christine O. Avendaño

HIS WORLD CRASHED WHEN HIS laptop, cell phone and wallet were stolen from his rented room in August.

A day later, everything was right again for Lemuel Benedict Non when he learned that he not only passed the gruelling medical board exams, he ranked No. 8.

Non, a 25-year-old native of Gen. Santos City who was in the top 10 of his class at the University of the Philippines, said he still has to get used to being called a doctor.

"I feel I'm not yet ready," he said. "I'm just beginning to accept the responsibility of the profession and the title."

Ready or not, come Oct. 15, Non and 16 other scholars of "Bagong Doktor Para Sa Bayan" which is run under the foundation of the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, will be deployed to the barrios where they will serve for the next two years.

The foundation's 19 scholars from UP Manila and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) all passed the gru-

NEW DOCS A6

Confessions in cyberspace virtual church

By TJ Burgonio

NOW YOU CAN RECEIVE GOD'S blessings without ever having to leave your computer.

With one click, you can listen to a Sunday homily, read reflections on the Bible and even "chat" (interact in real time) with a priest.

CONFESSIONS A6

Hall of remembrance puts a face on martial law martyrs

By TJ Burgonio

THERE ARE ONLY CLOSE-UP PICtures lifted from yearbooks and family albums, and yet this gallery contains the official records of some of the countless people who died fighting the Marcos dictatorship.

President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law 36 years ago today.

In his picture, Emmanuel Lazo of Nueva Vizcaya sports a thick head of hair and looks like someone in his 20s.

But Lazo's profile offers startling information: As a student of the Central Luzon State University in 1995, he joined the League of Filipino Students and took part in the five-day "Lakbayan" march to Manila. He was finally shot in the head on Taft Avenue in Manila on Oct. 21, 1986.

He was 17—the youngest of the 52 young martyrs profiled in the gallery.

And Lazo was not alone.

University of the Philippines economics student Dennis Rabadon Dovenmuehle, who worked with farmers in his home province of Zambales, was abducted from the family home in February 1972.

His bullet-riddled body was found days later. Hundreds of people attended his funeral. He was 19.

High school student Delia Cortez, who led women and youth in rallies against factory pollution and later

HALL A15

• **Singapore bans** all dairy imports from China / A20 • **North Korea** restoring nuke plant earlier blasted / A19

• **Larry still** cooking up a new menu: A farm spa named Abe on the slopes of Mt. Arayat • Senators Ping and Manny: In style adversaries SUNDAY LIFESTYLE • **Legally 18:** Under the law, there are 11 more reasons to celebrate your 18th birthday • Coming of age for a Muslim princess, Ibaloi maiden, Ilonggo lass, Aeta debutante, etc. SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE • **Best Drama** series, 'Mad Men' set to make Emmy history ENTERTAINMENT

A2 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Rain regions and Eastern Visayas will experience rainy and gusty winds. The rest of Southern Luzon, Western Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly sunny skies with scattered rainshowers while the rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
South Luzon	Partly Cloudy	Cgdo. de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Kalayaan	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	Puerto Princesa	Cloudy with Rains
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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SIX DIGIT (2nd Draw) 2 8 5 4 8 1 (4th Draw) — SUERTRES (2PM Draw) 2 8 1 (4PM Draw) 8 3 6 (9PM Draw) 5 1 2

EZ2 (2PM Draw) 4 19 (4PM Draw) 27 31 (9PM Draw) 5 1 2

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN 1 3 4 9 13 36

P12,522,465.00

US troops act as if they own Zambo airport –solon

By Norman Bordados

A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION coalition has expressed support for the stalled Mao's resolution asking the House of Representatives to look into the continued and increasing presence of American troops in the country.

Zamboanga City Rep. Maria Isabelle G. Climaco said she even informed US ambassador Kristie Kenney of her desire to have the House committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement look into what appears to be a permanent presence of US troops in the country.

"I already told Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney that the Committee of the VFA in the House of Representatives should be convened to find out what the Americans are doing here, because as a representative of Zamboanga City I don't know for what reason they're here there since 2002," Climaco said.

Climaco said she has long been asking US officials about their long-term plans in the country like said the American would always say they don't have any.

"If they don't have a long-term plan, why is it that until now they haven't left the country?" Climaco asked.

Climaco said she is puzzled by the presence as well of DHN Corp., a private firm that reportedly takes care of the US troops' supplies.

"In one airport, you see the Bells helicopters and the Americans planes occupying one side of the hangars as if they already owned a certain portion of our airport," Climaco said.

"They used to have three areas when they held the Balikatan in Basilan, but now they are in the Western Mindanao Command," she added.

Already in the House is a resolution seeking the probe of the US presence filed by party-list Reps. Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño and Deputy Minority Leaders Mercedes Cabal-Alvarez and Rodolfo Mantos of Anakpawis.

MARITIME WEEK
Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard conduct a high-grade rescue and life-saving drill on Saturday at the Coast Guard headquarters in Manila as part of the celebration of the Maritime Week in the country. PCG photo

Sen. Revilla to join Mindanao peace ride

SEN. RAMON "BONG" REVILLA Jr. has assured stakeholders in the country that he would join those in a motorcycle peace caravan in Mindanao scheduled after the elections.

The caravan, to be spearheaded by the Movement for Philippine Federation (MOPF), seeks to boost further Christian-Muslim relationship in the country.

In a press statement, Revilla said he assured the officers of the federation of his participation during a meeting at the Senate recently.

In their meeting, the MOPF formally informed and explained to the senator details about their planned "Freedom Ride for Peace in Mindanao," the first ever motorcade of various motorcycle riders advocating peace in Mindanao.

The MOPF has asked Revilla to lead the Christian motorcycle riders when they launch the caravan. For the Muslim motorcycle riders, the MOPF is eyeing Sen. Benigno Aquino III's fellow action star Rubin Pedilla.

"Rest assured that I will participate in the peace caravan. The event will prove that serious concern for peace in Mindanao is greatly increasing in various sectors in the country, including the motorcycle sector," Revilla said in his statement.

He stressed that the event is a unique venue to further realize that the crusade for peace in Mindanao is often among Christian and Muslim Filipinos.

"Having our Christian and Muslim countrymen together is a meaningful event to show that we are all one in the pursuit of the much-awaited peace in the region. We are all Filipinos," he pointed out.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- **PALACE REJECTS** ransom demand for 2 abducted aid workers /A9
- **MOMS URGED:** Be storytellers and read to your own kids /A5

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Senators want US Embassy to prove Smith is still there

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Jeannine Aning

SENATORS YESTERDAY URGED THE US Embassy to open its doors to government agencies can check whether or not convicted rapist Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith is still detained at the embassy.

Lawyer Harry Roque had alleged before the Supreme Court on Friday that a US soldier convicted had told him during a prior hearing event that Smith was no longer detained at the embassy and had been staying somewhere in Quezon City.

Government lawyer Agnes Devanadera later said Roque's allegations were not true and said Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus had just visited Smith at the embassy compound last Sept. 12.

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, co-chair of the legislative oversight committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) said (Roque's) allegation "is a serious issue that merits the attention of the appropriate agencies of the government."

"The only way to quell these doubts and justify both sides is to show that these fears are not true. They can just simply allow a team to go there and look," Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano added.

The Makati City Regional Trial Court convicted Smith in 2006 for raping a 22-year, identified in the media as "Nicole." He was sent to the Makati City Jail but was transferred 10 days later to the US Embassy in line with the provisions of the VFA.

Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangilinan also called on the high court to immediately resolve the custody issue on Smith.

"We urge the Supreme Court to swiftly resolve the pending petition before it on the matter of jurisdiction over the person of Lance Corporal Smith," Pangilinan said in a text message.

The counsel of the convicted American soldier denounced Roque for questioning the whereabouts of the convicted rapist during the oral arguments on the VFA before the Supreme Court.

"That's baloney. He has on a personal knowledge about it. It was improper for him to talk about that before the magistrates. Suppose they believe it? He just can't say things that are never verified," Smith's lawyer Jose Justiniano told the inquirer in a phone interview.

"If he has evidences, then let the witness make an affidavit," Justiniano said.

"He (Smith) has always been in the US Embassy. The US has no facility in Quezon City. I can assure you that he is in the embassy. I have access to him," the lawyer added.

He said Smith never left the embassy compound except on one occasion when he was escorted by lawyers for an emergency and had to undergo surgery to remove gallbladder stones.

Justiniano said he visited Smith a month ago and is in touch with him by phone.

He said that if Smith had been a party to the Supreme Court case, he, as Smith's counsel, would have asked that Roque be cited for contempt of court for baseless allegations that could harm Smith's appeal of his conviction.

WHAT THEY SAY

• US AMBASSADOR KRISTIE KENNEY

"The (Daniel Smith) is still under US custody in the other compound. We are adhering to the Visiting Forces Agreement."

• SOLICITOR GENERAL AGNES DEVANADERA

"Don't worry that Daniel Smith has been allowed to escape. He's there in the US Embassy. So we're granted. Please don't be (lawyer Harry Roque) get his information."

• INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY MARIUS CORPUS

Said yesterday he conducts monthly visits to the detained servicemen at the US embassy. The last time he visited was last Sept. 12. He said Smith had been moved to a structure run inside the embassy compound. The visit is facilitated with a bedroom, bathroom and receiving area. The visit was set up because the building where Smith was previously detained was undergoing renovation.

MILF welcomes gov't plan to bring child warrior issue to UN

COTABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT'S plan to bring the alleged use of child warriors by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) before the United Nations would pave the way for the truth to come out, a rebel spokesperson said yesterday.

Further, the military said it has documented the deployment of child warriors by the rebel group during skirmishes in Mindanao.

Maguindanao said President Macapagal-Arroyo would inform the UN about the MILF's use of children and other alleged crimes committed by the rebel group.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said on Thursday that the President would speak before the UN gathering in New York and would cite a video footage, showing MILF recruits assisting as 15 years old are undergoing military training and marching drills.

Baseless claim

The video footage was reportedly recovered by the military from one of the captured camps of MILF 105th base command leader Ombra Kato in Maguindanao.

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military affairs chief, said the MILF did not use children to fight the military and branded the government claim as baseless.

"Once the issue is presented before the UN, an investigation, an impartial one, is going to take place and expose the truth," he told the Inquirer by phone.

Massacre for kids

Kabalu said soldiers could have mistaken some of their members for children because they are small even, pointed in others, even if they are aged 16 or 20 already.

Muhammad Ameen, deputy chair of the MILF's information committee, also said a UN probe would determine which entity has been destroying the future of children in conflict areas.

Trial by absentia

He cited the death of several children—including six children—during the Sept. 8 air assault by the military on suspected MILF positions in Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

Ameen said the MILF has been religiously observing an international law on children in armed conflict by not recruiting children.

He said the MILF "only actively helping children go to school, where they also receive military training akin to the government's military training programs in schools.

"To enable them to defend themselves, the MILF is providing them basic military training," he said.

On other abuses allegedly committed by the MILF Kabalu said it was the military which has always murdered the ceasefire but it was the MILF that gave the blame.

Peaceful end

But Kabalu added that the MILF would always want a peaceful end to the Mindanao conflict.

The peace talks between the government and the MILF had been suspended and the government peace panel already dissolved.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon earlier said that should the talks resume, the government must should request to the Malaysian government to facilitate instead of Malaysia.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said Malaysia's involvement in the failed talks was prompted by a request from Ms Arroyo in 2001.

"If the negotiations resume, we will still choose Malaysia to facilitate," Iqbal said. Edwin Fernando, Atty. Oliver Bolivar and Aquilino Mendoza, Inquirer Mindanao

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'Nina' picks up strength

A TROPICAL DEPRESSION yesterday intensified into a storm over sea, and threatened to bring rain and gusty winds over eastern Luzon.

Tropical storm "Nina" picked up more strength over the Philippine Sea Saturday afternoon, packing maximum sustained winds of 90 kilometers per hour and gustiness of 120 kph.

At 4 p.m., it was estimated at 320 km east of Virac, Catanduanes. But it has not shown signs of losing land in the next two to three days, the weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, however, limited Signal No. 1 over Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Legaspi, Sorsogon, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

"These areas will experience rains and gusty winds," forecaster Ulpio Perez said in a phone interview, warning the residents of possible landslides and flashfloods. 13 Inarguacia

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Alleged Lehman dummies post bail, deny raps

By Bonnie T. Nicholas and Nancy Carvajal

FOUR BUSINESSMEN ACCUSED of being dummies of the bankrupt American investment bank Lehman Brothers have posted bail after summary for their arrest were issued against them by a Muntinlupa City regional trial court.

The four, incorporators of the then Philippine Investment One Inc. (PIOI), were issued arrest warrants on Sept. 4 by Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court Branch 254 Presiding Judge Reinato Reyes after Lehman Brothers Inc. and Carlos Maliksi applied for provisional liberty on Wednesday, while Edilberto Consolatta and Jose Rhaye Kalalo had posted bail the following day.

The fifth accused, Michael C. Fabricato, remains at large.

But the lawyer of Macasaet and Maliksi claimed that a warrant of arrest or a field deputation order was issued against his clients. He said they posted bail before a summary for their arrest could be issued. And they did so only to put themselves under the jurisdiction of the court.

Bayolo Lehmico of the Egana Bayolo Law office said in an interview on the phone that a cash bond was posted the same day the arrest warrant was to be issued.

Lehmico also cited a 13-page record of Judge Reinato Reyes signed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Sept. 11 granting the petition of the accused for a review of the case and setting aside the findings of the Muntinlupa City prosecutor of a probable cause against them.

The resolution also ordered the prosecutor to withdraw the information against them.

Lehmico said it was now up to the court to act on the prosecution's motion to withdraw the case. He said the court usually grants the motion as a matter of course.

In a separate statement sent to the Inquirer, Maliksi said the case of ransomware Hyrax Mitsubishi was "groundless and without merit," citing the DOJ resolution.

Anti-Dummy Law

Judge Edwin Sorongon issued the warrants following a complaint against the five for violation of the Anti-Dummy Law filed by Villarin Garcia, member of the Triple 8 Group of companies.

Villarin-Garcia alleged that Lehman Brothers was the actual owner of PIOI and the five were only dummies. PIOI bought Villarin-Garcia's Shaw Boulevard property in Mandaluyong from what was then Equitable-PCI Bank under the Special Purpose Vehicle Law.

Villarin-Garcia said Equitable-PCI Bank acquired the property from Villarin-Garcia as part of the P400-million obligation with the stipulation that he could reacquire the property within 10 years. The bank, it is argued, did not register as civil case.

Villarin-Garcia said he wants to buy back the property for P60 million, the same price it bought in 2003.

In a June 16 decision, the court issued a hold-departure ground for enjoining arrest warrants against the five.

"It appears from the foregoing documents... that respondent [Lehmico] has complied with the requirements of the rules for the issuance of the writ of preliminary injunction," the decision said.

Lehmico said his clients had not violated any law and had complied with the SEC rule of 60-40 equity.

"We believe that there was no violation of the Anti-Dummy Law. The SEC rule is clear. The legal conclusion is that no violation of the Anti-Dummy Law was committed," the DOJ resolution stated.

No violations

Moms urged: Be storytellers to your kids

Inquirer's Read-Along used to launch literacy program in Marikina City

By Rose V. Pedroso
and Lawrence de Guzman
Inquirer Researcher

STORIES ABOUT LOVE AND FAMILY abound in the special Read-Along session held in Marikina City last Friday to launch the Zonta Club of Marikina's literacy project.

Dubbed "Mother Reads a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)," the program is aimed at encouraging mothers to read to their children.

With about 60 children from the Kapitan Moy Elementary School and around the same number of parents in attendance, the session featured singer Jeffrey Hidalgo, award-winning writer and home decorist of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Creative Writing Prof. Ma. Salome Hidalgo, children's book author May Tobias-Hupa and Asherah storyteller Gyah Jones.

The Zonta Club of Marikina is a member of Zonta International, a worldwide service organization composed of women in business and office professions dedicated to advancing the status of women.

PHOTO: Vice Mayor-to-read! A book before students of Kapitan Moy Elementary School during a read-along in Marikina City last Friday

Valuable lessons

"This project will involve mothers who will read aloud to their children ... not only to impart valuable lessons to their kids, but more importantly, to inculcate among the children the joys and pleasures of reading," said Nanette Lim, Zonta's president.

"We hope that this will be just the beginning of the long-lasting ties that will eventually make our children become dedicated citizens and responsible members of society," Lim added.

First reader Hupa, who came to the Read-Along with her 2-year-old son, Aiden, with her husband, Benjamin Hupa Jr. (Ben, read "Bears in Pajamas," which she herself wrote. The book, illustrated by Isabel Sioco, was published by Adarna House just last month.

"I was flattered I was invited to read," said Hupa, who added it was her first time to read her story with people. "To be able to share my book with so many kids is gratifying. It always soothes me to spend quality time with my son."

Singer-actor Hidalgo read "Mac tages Li-lian Rides to Bagbagan" by Lola Gamboa-Inoc and illustrated by Beth Parungao-Deocadiz, which was about a boy coming to terms with his grandfather's hospitalization as a result of his aging. It was published by OMF Literature Inc.

First time

"It's my first time to read to children," Hidalgo said. "I am not a frustrated actor but rather the book's topic since I was a kid—interested in mathematics and science books—so I appreciate this program of encouraging kids to read even for works."

Hidalgo, who is now into the business of selling and framing artworks and co-producing a movie for his sister, Sarah, said that when his schedule permits, he much relishes the chance to put his hands on "I and Somewhere from different genres," he said, citing Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist" as among his favorites.

Complete with costume, Rodeen read "Mandaweng Bagyuhin," a story that Rodeen said was based on experiences of the drug addicts of the Philippines. Also written by Gamboa-Inoc and illustrated by Diaz-Ibarra, the story was about a family's struggle to make life wonderful for a handicapped family member. It was also published by OMF.

Animated delivery

A multi-awarded writer, Hidalgo has been presenting literary works to audiences since the 1980s. He first Read-Along, he animatedly delivered his story to the delight of his young audiences.

"I admire those kinds of programs because they bridge the gap between the writer and the readers," Hidalgo said. "It's also good that parents get involved because as a study found out, children do not read primarily because they do not see their parents doing so. Children should get exposed to reading at home. They should see that their parents are into reading as well."

Jasmo capped the session with her energetic reading of Animasia "Spookiaw" written by Alice Mallari and illustrated by Leo Agustin—the same piece she read at the Antasyanan 2008, a nationwide storytelling contest organized by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, where she bagged the Tatoray award for the Filipino-Division last week. "Spookiaw" is about a boy who learned how to handle school bullies with the help of his own mother.

"It was a pleasant and heartwarming experience," Jasmo said of the Read-Along.

No stranger

Jasmo was no stranger to reading to children in the way a teacher for 18 years before she joined Shekinah's Colonel, Ibrahim, Trade and Investment Promotion Office as a business development assistant. She said that as for as influencing children is concerned, mothers were indeed the right people to urge.

"I think mothers have a very big influence on their kids," she said. "Especially when children are their means reading instead of just watching or watching TV. They realize that reading could be a hobby."

Auto herself related the advantages brought about by having introduced her own daughter, 7-year-old Leonhart, to books at an early age. "Once the habit of reading is developed, you wouldn't have to force the kid to do his/her homework," said Auto. "If you develop love for reading early on, as a parent you wouldn't have to impose—the children would do it themselves."

Children and parents alike were thrilled by the session.

"I appreciate the program," said Ella Rabagsin, a mother who attended the session along with her 9-year-old son, "Reading is important that's why I got involved in this program. I really want my son to gain more knowledge," she added in Filipino.

"It's fun," commented 11-year-old Angeli Pido, one of the kids who attended the session. "Learning can be fun."

Upon leaving, 9-year-old Hannah Jane Villanueva cannot wait to open the book she won as prize in one of the session's segment. "Of course, I am excited to start reading my new book!"

Last Friday's Read-Along, hosted by Jasmo and Inquirer writer Ruth Navarro, was inspired by the worldwide campaign Zonta Club of Marikina led by Lou Santiago, Rosario Lee and Jones, and Dra. de Jesus Sioco, a Marikina resident that served as the venue for the event. Books were also donated by Marikina District Lieutenant Rony Bautista.

Books from Alfred Publishing were given away as prizes, while theme read were from Adarna and OMF.

The Inquirer Read-Along was launched in May last year by the Inquirer Research Department, Inquirer Library and Access Inquirer to promote the love of reading among children through storytelling sessions with celebrities and volunteers.

More 'greenie' jeepneys to ply Makati routes soon

BECAUSE OF MORE CORBIE! ers using the electric sequence in Makati City's central business district, the city government has decided to acquire seven more units of the "greenie" jeep.

The additional e-jeepneys, which run on rechargeable batteries, will be made available for public use in time for the Christmas rush in December.

Ernesto Carandang, consultant for transportation and traffic management, said the city government is still in the process of acquiring the jeepneys from foreign suppliers.

"What's also much of the time is the assembly since the easiest parts of the electric jeepneys are imported from foreign suppliers," he explained.

The e-jeepneys began plying routes in Legaspi and Salcedo Villages in July, offering free rides as its application is still pending before the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board.

The city government began with four units subsidized by certain conglomerates.

"The expansion phase will bring the e-jeepneys fixed to five vehicles servicing the CBD by the end of the year," added Carandang, who cited the move as the Metro Manila Development Authority director for traffic.

Judy M. Araylio

Robin Padilla's girl in Mindanao: Why is there war?

From page A1

At 8 a.m., our caravan of about 50 people on board several vehicles, with the truck bearing the relief goods positioned in the middle, was already on the highway going to Pikit.

The two-hour trip seemed an eternity; sidewalk made me tense with each kilometer that we traveled.

I knew we were almost there when I saw vans like theirs in blue shades along the highway in the middle of those seasonal dwellings overcrowded, the loudest noises in the car we were riding in dissolved into complete silence.

Only the hum of the car's engine could be heard, as if it were the only thing alive.

Then a throng of people came into view, and we stopped at a thickly populated site—the school grounds of Bulagansen in Pikit.

The evacuees were milling around as if trying to pick up whatever bit of food that they might see ripe on, for there was no food that we could see.

They all looked very hungry.

Near pandemonium

Quickly we started distributing the food packs.

Those who had been issued stubs positioned not to stand in line, maybe fearing that the packs would run out if they made an effort to get in the front of the queue.

It came to a point of near pandemonium when some of the evacuees started climbing into the truck, grabbing some of the food packs and throwing them in their bins in haste.

But they could not be blamed for that. They were too hungry to wait.

Five hundred food packs were distributed to the evacuees in Pikit. But all that was not enough; so many of them did not receive any.

There's the sad reality of having limited supplies: to give people who evacuated their homes in get away from a war in which they are the victims.

We called it a day after 2 p.m. We had to return to Cotabato City to get more supplies.

But this time we could only afford to buy a lesser quantity of food, including rice.

Packing the donated goods, rice, bread and coffee was faster this time as the grocery owners, a concerned citizen, volunteered to take charge of the entire preparation.

On to Talayan

We started traveling to Talayan in Maguindanao at 6:30 the next morning.

The trip was shorter. It took us only a little more than an hour to reach the area.

We found the evacuees in a number that had yet to operate.

What I saw—naked, malnourished children, obviously not having bathed for days, and people grimacing with hunger; pregnant women who had no certainty that they would give birth to normal children because of the emotional and physical stress they were going through...support] my strength.

I [was] totally unable to think, and was overwhelmed with sadness. I had never seen such suffering in my life.

I knew there were poor people in Manila living in slums, under bridges, near garbage dumps, and on sidewalks. But I also knew they were not as hungry as these people I saw in the evacuation centers.

I saw no one who was wounded...and that was a blessing. I believe—but the hunger they were experiencing was much more serious than being wounded.

Why?

There has to be an end to this war.

I can't help but ask why there is war in Mindanao while people in the malls in Manila were oblivious to the suffering of many people.

Why, despite the war, is there such glitter at Rockwell, fast-food chains and other places for the rich, who spend huge amounts of money for expensive food, clothes, cars, cell phones and many more luxurious things? I simply can't comprehend it.

I have to find ways to understand the causes of the conflict in Mindanao, and I am inclined to help resolve it in my own little way.

I wish I could go back there to help cause more...to put an end to the war, and not simply to bring food.

LEARNING ON THE JOB Quezon Public worker with the Cotabato City civic group to prepare for the relief operation in Bulagansen in Pikit, North Cotabato. KOKO CHRISTIAN CUNANAN

Confessions . . .

From page A2

Activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes is launching today parodyanamesh.org, a virtual parish where he will post his reflections on daily Bible readings, his Sunday Mass homilies and other inspirational messages.

More importantly, he's open to "chats" with his virtual parishioners, after the 6 p.m. Angelus, for some 20 minutes.

"People are asking me, 'Father, can we confess to you via chat?' Of course, you can. 'Can you give us absolution?' Of course, I can," Reyes, 52, said in an interview Thursday night.

Reyes is in Manila for a two-month visit and will soon be back in Hong Kong, where he works for the Asian Human Rights Commission. He has been working abroad since early 2000 after the Catholic Church advised him to take a sabbatical in the aftermath of his criticisms of the Arroyo administration's politics.

God in cyberspace

The virtual parish will be launched at the Internet shop, "Komputerwan: Media ng Bayan" at the University of the Philippines' Shopping Center in Diliman, Quezon City at 10 a.m. today. The Philippine Online Chronicles (www.thepoc.net) is hosting the website.

The idea, Reyes said, would be to spread spirituality and reach out to the millions of Filipinos working in other parts of Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

"Now I will have a forum to share my spirituality, even my personal struggles searching for God and meaning in my own life," he said of the interviews "Angelus spirituality is a function of priests whose lives are dedicated to reminding people of the centrality of prayer and spirituality."

During a typical day in his virtual parish, Reyes will write a reflection early in the morning, post it and at 6 p.m., he will say the Angelus in a pre-taped position.

A chat after the Angelus

"So I will be in cyberspace inside the church reflecting on the Gospel pieces," he said.

After the 30-minute Angelus, anybody can log in and chat with him on any subject until he signs off at 6:30 p.m.

"So anyone who wants to chat with me from anywhere in the world, they can do so," he said. "But at 6:30 p.m.—because I still have to have my meal, life—I will say goodbye."

However, the cyber hiddhci can still chat with Reyes anytime of the day if he happens to be online.

On Sundays, Reyes said he would upload a video clip of his homily during a 10 a.m. Mass for celebrators such a group of Filipinos in an undisclosed place in Hong Kong.

No boundaries

"I cannot upload the entire Mass, it's very technical and people will find it unnecessary because it's not live," he said.

Reyes spent a year working as an English teacher in a university in southern China before joining February 2006, where proselytizing is prohibited. After he moved to Hong Kong in March 2007, where he taught the anthropology of religion in a university, he was allowed to celebrate Mass.

But after he was detained and charged by the police in connection with the Nov. 29, 2007 siege at the Manila Peninsula (he was later cleared of the charges), he was banned by the Hong Kong bishop from officiating Mass.

With his virtual parish, there are no boundaries.

Celebrating the Eucharist

"Paradyanamesh will really deepen my appreciation of my own priesthood because I was not allowed to say Mass in Hong Kong and I'm not entirely convinced by my bishop's reasons and have a parish in the Philippines," Reyes said.

"So what do I do? Reject the Eucharist? No, I don't forget the Eucharist. I celebrate the Eucharist quietly in the privacy of my room, but the priesthood is not for celebrating Mass alone," he said.

Since 2006, people have been badgering him at rebuilt parish in Manila he would celebrate Mass. He print said.

"Wow, I will share, I'm saying Mass on the web," Reyes said.

FIT'S DOCS The First Gentleman Foundation Inc. graduated its first batch of medical scholars totaling 19. President Arroyo and her husband Mike Arroyo celebrate the milestone with a speech lunch at the Palace. Also in photo are ex-Sen. Juan Flavier (inside), DOH), Dr. Carmelo Jeffrey PGH head and Jarin Salman (extreme right), Mike Arroyo's chief of staff. MALACAÑANG

New docs give something back: 2 years in barrios

From page A1

rolling four-day medical board exams given last August.

In exchange for a two-year scholarship from the Arroyo foundation that gave scholars tuition money and allowances, they will work in the barrios for two years.

Except for him, the scholars all brought their families to a luncheon in their honor in Malacañang on Sept. 15. They say they live lunch in graduate out of the 62 scholars under the program of the Arroyo foundation.

Despite her busy schedule that day, President Macapagal-Arroyo dropped by to attend the lunch.

Aside from him, the other Arroyo scholars who are now doctors are: Ysamsa Cabrera, Hilario Caguiat, Benedict Cendaña, Hazel Madeline Cagaloonan, Anthony Co, Karen Dalawangbayan, Heider Escorido, Mike Mojarrieta, and Xiaoerina Nuncal from University of the Philippines in Manila; Jessica Arellano, Ma. Fernanda Bello, Ma. Sheryl De Sosa, Rhodora Faye Fernandez, Elaine Alva, Karen Aziz Hinaja, Paulo Hipolito, Charmaine Ann Subagio, and Winnie Lorraine Umali.

Magnificent obsession

It was a boisterous and happy group of new doctors who thanked Arroyo during the luncheon.

The President's husband said he was very proud of their achievements and for keeping their commitment to work in the barrios.

"Make it your magnificent obsession to help your country as they can be inspired by you," Arroyo said.

He explained that his foundation's rural doctors' program was "patterned" after the popular "Doctors to the Barrios" program launched by Sen. Juan Flavier when he was health secretary during the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Flavier was also at the luncheon.

Through the help of the private sector that donated cash and land, Flavier, a rural doctor himself, was able to center young doctors to serve in the rural areas.

Easing the shortage

"Bagong Doktor Para Sa Bayan" is no different. Its program basically aims to "ease the critical shortage of doctors, especially in the barrios, by giving scholarships to poor but deserving students," according to the foundation's statement.

The foundation, which got donations from the private sector, supports the education and personal expenses of students in the last two years of medical school, according to the statement.

"The last two years are more than they will finish the course," he said.

There are two more batches of students that the foundation is keeping an eye on. All in all, it hopes to support the studies of 300 students.

New breed of doctors

The country is in dire need of a "new breed of Filipino doctors willing to serve in the countryside," according to Health Undersecretary Maria Milagrosa.

Villaverde described the departure of doctors and those in the medical service for jobs abroad as "very disturbing."

He said the government of Health would do its best to ensure that doctors would remain in the public health sector.

Up to now, Soo said he still didn't know whether he would be deployed by the DOH next month.

Although he would prefer to serve in a barrio near his province, he said he was ready to be sent anywhere.

High cost of medical school

Soo said the support given to him by the foundation was a big help to him and his family.

The program saw him through his last year of medical school and internship, he said.

Medical school was expensive, he added, noting that the tuition fee alone was P15,000 per semester.

For the first year of his scholarship, Soo said he was given an allowance of P20,000 per month as well as free uniforms, a clinic master set and a medical bag. The next year, he was given a P5,000 monthly allowance plus expenses for the board exams.

Soo said he graduated on his own for two months and a half after graduation.

"I was half-running to make it in the top 10," he said.

On Aug. 24, he got the good news. He scored the Top 8 spot in the board exams with an average of 86.17 percent. Some 1,313 had passed the exams.

A day earlier, he had lost his wallet, laptop and cellphone to thieves who broke into his room he was renting in Manila.

"I was so down," he said. The laptop was a gift from an uncle, the phone was something that he has had for years and his wallet contained his ID and cash.

He bought a cheap cellphone on the same day to keep in touch with family and friends so the exams results were coming out soon.

His friends informed him about the good news.

Back in his home town

Back in his hometown of Gen. Santos City, Soo said that he was looking forward to working in the rural areas.

While waiting for his day of deployment, he was reviewing medical books and working in the hospital.

Even in his internship days, Soo said he had encountered many doctors who were planning to work abroad due to the low pay in private hospitals.

"I interned in a private tertiary hospital and there were residents there leaving either for Saudi Arabia or the United States," he said.

Giving back

Soo recalled a pediatrician who was already a resident as classy in a private hospital, yet she was seriously considering regarding to another country.

The doctor told him that she would not be able to support her children such the pay she was getting in the Philippines.

"While the salary of doctors are higher than other jobs here, there are other countries that give them opportunities to earn more," Soo said. "That's why it's more important that we should train to stay here."

Soo conceded that most of the scholars like him applied for the doctors' program, not only for the benefits but also because "we want to serve the country."

"I want to make a little social impact in under-served barrios," he said.

During his years in grade school and high school, " this is my way of giving back to the government that paid for my education."

A CALL TO CONGRESS TO PASS THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILL

We congratulate the House of Representatives for finally tackling the Reproductive Health and Population Development Bill (House Bill 5043) in its plenary session.

Indeed, this is a momentous event. Although long in coming, Congress has finally taken the cudgels for a measure that has long been awaited by the majority of Filipinos. The Pulse Asia surveys, the latest one conducted in March 2007, have shown what the majority has been consistently saying all along[1]:

- **Nine out of ten Filipinos (92%) consider family planning important.**
- **Nine out of ten Filipinos (89%) think that government should allocate funds for modern methods of family planning including the pill, condoms, ligation, and vasectomy.**
  - **The percentage in favor of government funding for modern methods of family planning is particularly high among Roman Catholics (90%).**
- **Nearly 8 out of 10 Filipinos (76%) say it is important for a politician to include family planning in his/her program of action.**
- **More Filipinos believe that the church should not participate in the issue of what family planning methods couples should use (44% vs 33%).**

These figures show the consistent clamor for reproductive health care, family planning, and population and development services. And this is precisely what the Reproductive Health and Population Development bill seeks to provide.

We therefore call on Congress to enact House Bill 5043—a policy that would enable the people to make informed choices, give them options, and empower them to uplift the quality of their lives.

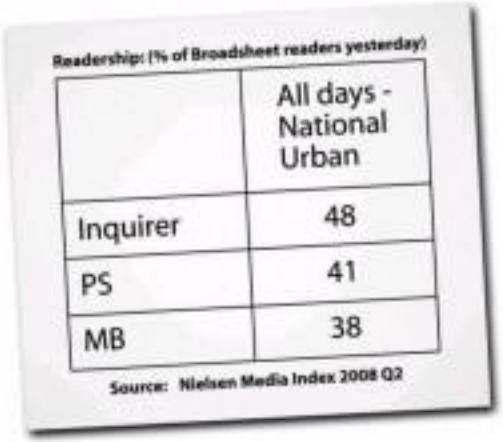
Pass the Reproductive Health and Population Development Bill!

To know more about how you can support the Reproductive Health bill, log on to www.reproductivehealth.com.ph

PLCPD
Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc.
Since 1969

[1] *Pulse Asia's Ulat ng Bayan Survey on Family Planning, March 2007.*

ONCE AGAIN.



Readership: (% of Broadsheet readers yesterday)

	All days - National Urban
Inquirer	48
PS	41
MB	38

Source: Nielsen Media Index 2008 Q2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Next Napocor president an 'insider'—Ermita

By Michael Lim Ubac

MY "INSIDER" WILL BE THE next president of National Power Corp. (Napocor).

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said that President Macapagal-Arroyo was considering Ferdie Tanpioco, vice president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management, to replace resigned Napocor president Cyril del Callar.

Speaking on same-sex dolls, Ermita described as an "insider" and a "career official" Del Callar's replacement.

Ermita denied rumors that defeated administration senatorial candidate Michael Defensor would get the plum post.

"That's unlikely," Ermita said, adding to just that the name of Del Callar's successor exposed with the name of a singer.

Ermita was apparently referring to singer Charice Pempengco, the phenomenal 15-year-old girl singer who is said to have the voice of Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, and Beyonce.)

When the last mentioned Pempengco's name, Ermita quibbled:

"Yeah, Tanpioco, correct, correct. It sounds like that. I know, he's an insider. As I've told you, if someone will be replaced, the replacement will come from the ranks. So if I'm not mistaken, he's the next in line to Cyril."

Ermita lashed further at energy in the energy sector, saying the government should focus on privatization of generation and transmission plants of Napocor.

"Why should we charge (people) this late in the day?" he said.

On Friday, President Arroyo reorganized the Department of Energy, appointing Zenaida Amparo-an as undersecretary, replacing Francisco Dublin Jr.

The President also named Loreta Ayson as DOE undersecretary replacing Alehandra L. Ocampo, and Ramon Allan V. Gin as DDE Assistant Secretary vice Aurelio M Ballael.

Their appointment took effect on Sept. 17, said Press Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Palace rejects ransom demand for 2 abducted aid workers

MAINTAINING ITS NO-RANSOM POLICY, Malacañang yesterday said it would not give in to the ransom demand in exchange for the release of aid workers Eugenio Hapida and Mirdie Shendoc.

"Government maintains its no-ransom policy," said Press Secretary Jesse Duremdes in a text message, without giving details about the ongoing negotiations.

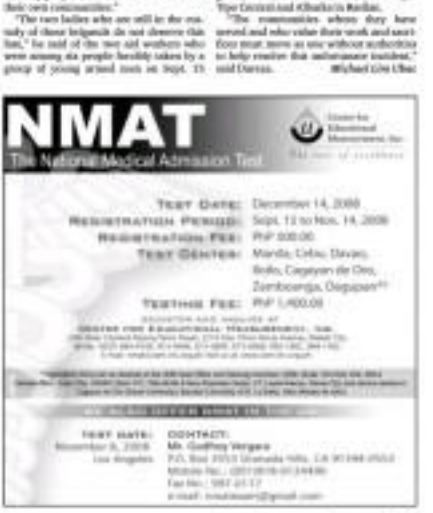
He, however, admitted that "all efforts must be exerted to bring home safely our MSD (nongovernmental organization) workers who have risked their lives in the service of the suffering people of the area."

Duremdes called the kidnapping "tragic" because "terrorist elements target as victims the very people who are out there to serve their own communities."

"The two ladies who are still in the custody of these brigands do not deserve this fate," he said of the two aid workers who were among six people forcibly taken by a group of young armed men on Sept. 15 while they were passing Barangay Cabenbatan, which borders the towns of Tipo-Tipo Central and Albuhan in Basilan.

"The communities where they have served and who value their work and sacrifices must move as one without authorities to help resolve this unfortunate incident," said Duremdes.

Michael Lim Ubac



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 22, 2008
25th Monday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8

Seek Yahweh while he may be found.

Rejoice, young man, in your youth,
call to henceforth be to you.
Let the wicked abandon his way,
let him forsake his thoughts,
let him turn to Yahweh for he will have mercy,
for our God is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways are not your ways, says Yahweh.
As the heavens are above the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5, 8b-10

Brothers and sisters, Christ will be received through my promise, whether I live or die.

For to me, to live is Christ, and even death is an unlooked-for gain. But if I am to go on living, I shall be able to enjoy fruitful labor. And I shall choose? In fact I find it hard to choose between the two. I desire greatly to leave this life and be with Christ, which will be better by far, but it is necessary for you that I remain in this life.

Try then, to adhere to me. Here is something in the Gospel of Christ: May I see it when I come to you, and if I cannot come, may I at least hear this you stand firm in the same spirit, striving in unison for faith of the Gospel with one heart.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus told his disciples this parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers a salary of a silver coin for the day, and sent them to his vineyard.

"He went out again at about nine in the morning, and seeing others idle in the marketplace, he said to them: 'You, too, go to my vineyard and I will pay you what is just.' So they went.

"He went out again out at midday and again at three in the afternoon, and he did the same. Finally he went out at the last working hour—it was the eleventh—and he saw others standing there. He he said to them: 'Why do you stay idle the whole day?' They answered: 'Because no one has hired us.' The owner said 'Go you too to my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager: 'Call the workers and pay them their wage, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' Those who had come in at 5 in the afternoon received a day's wage each when it was given a denarius each to show mind. When it was the turn of the first, they thought they would receive more. But they, too, received a denarius each. So, on receiving it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

"They said, 'These last hardly worked an hour, yet you have treated them the same as us who have endured the day's burden and heat.' The owner said in reply to one of them, 'Friend, I have not been unjust to you. Did we not agree on a denarius a day? So take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last the same as I give to you. Don't I have the right to do as I please with my money? Why are you envious when I am kind?'

'So will it be: the last will be first, the first will be last.'

Commentary:

The denarius was the standard daily wage for an unskilled laborer. The owner of the vineyard is not without reason in paying a full day's wage to the workers hired last in the afternoon, for the grapes are not picked in a timely fashion if they will go to waste. The master knows what he is doing, now if it might not seem so to the unwatched eye.

Each worker was entitled to the good harvest, just as each of us is entitled to the opportunities of the Kingdom. Neither the Lord's workers will be deprived of their reward.

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OPINION

Fighting the fear

EDITORIAL

AS HIS NATION WAS IN THE GRIP OF THE GREAT Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt began his term of office by telling his countrymen and the world that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." For years, his country and the global economy had been paralyzed, once-trusted institutions were crashing down, fortunes vanishing, and nations plunging into runaway inflation and massive job losses. FDR vowed action during the famous first "hundred days" of his presidency and thereby saved not only the American economy but possibly, democracy. For it was the Great Depression that inspired undermined citizens to embrace the emboldened prophets of fascism and communism.

The world, after fully a year of wishing and hoping it wouldn't have to, confronted once more the dark specter of the years of the Great Depression this past week. For a time, for a crucial three to four days, it seemed the giants would cease tumbling down, and the world would slide precipitously into financial ruin. And for a time, as in the years 1929-1931, it seemed that governments and financiers would be gripped by paralysis, as citizens in turn were gripped by panic.

At the sidelines, the rancid forces of communism, and even of fascist thinking, were the only ones celebrating, taunting and bantering what they proclaimed to be a vindication of Marx, glorying in the bloodbath of Wall Street and other great bourses of the world. To be sure, in the United States, the bubble of the past decade was exposed: capitalism, indeed, was shown to be too seductive, too impossible, a thing to leave entirely in the hands of capitalists. The American government, after having allowed a bank to fail, had to step in to essentially nationalize a giant insurance conglomerate.

There is no such thing as freedom without responsibility; this is the painful lesson American officials and capitalists have had to learn, echoing the same interventionists of the Roosevelt years which had instituted bank holidays, deposit insurance, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Social Security to restore a human and humane face to the markets and the banking system. But what unites fiscal bankers and stock traders have taken to euphemistically calling "excesses" in the markets—which are of their own making, and which central banks around the world have had to come together to clean up—sang as in the 1930s, never to demonstrate that greed has a price; but they do not, as they did not, dispose the vitality and wide preference of global politics for capitalism.

For now, at least, the intervention of central banks to stem the erosion of public confidence in the banking and stock market system, has worked. In February 2006, when George W. Bush appointed Ben Bernanke chair of the Federal Reserve (the US Central Bank), much was already made of his being an expert on the Great Depression. Over the past week, when it seemed the world was poised to replay, with dizzying speed, the collapse of markets in 1929, that expertise came to the fore, just as do-nuevals for action and proposals for reform have all taken to revisiting the Great Depression. Fear, indeed, was the enemy, and panic was its handmaiden and they were the main perils to contend with.

Which is not to say that the deep-set problems that first began to manifest themselves with the subprime crisis are going away, or that all the giant banking and other institutions recently imperiled are home-free. What has been stopped is a global economic free fall and free for all. There is both a symbolic and substantive meaning to the American government's insinuation of restaurants, through bailouts and nationalizations, to demonstrate the "full faith and credit." The Bank of England, Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, and the Central Bank of Switzerland (the big central banks that stepped into the markets last Thursday), are all behind such concerted moves and the state commitment to institute reforms that politicians and bankers failed to do in the 1930s.

Filipinos, on the other hand, can be thankful for the restrictive conservatism of our local banks and bankers. While we aren't immune to global trends, we have our own resources and reserves of prudence, to weather such storms.

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The non-abduction of Lozada

SEPARATE OPINION

Raganil A. Cruz

TWO RECENT DECISIONS ON CASES THAT have excited much public anxiety have not restored public confidence in the judiciary and may have instead deepened the divergence. There was at least the hope that it would act more decisively on these cases and assure the people of its determination, already too long delayed, to make judges above suspicion (like Garcel's wife, Jinggoy's wife and wife of, dare suspect, I have to say that) their own, to say humble opinion, little proof of judicial charity.

The first decision involved the irregularities committed by justices of the Court of Appeals in the case of Benito L. Ilusorio and Ilusorio Construction. This was the subject of the unanimous *per curiam* resolution of the Supreme Court en banc consisting of 37 pages on Sept. 9, 2008. The second decision was rendered by the Court of Appeals three days later on the petition for a writ of amparo filed by Rodolfo Lozada. This was denied—by lack of merit—for many citizens felt was there to reach abandonment for all to see.

The resolution of the Supreme Court was based largely on the report and recommendations of the panel it created composed of Justice Candelaria Tolibao, Justice Jose Sabio Jr. and Justice Florida Bath Romero and Romeo Callejo Jr., all of them retired members of the high tribunal. The panel met for several days and made many factual findings after hearing the court's committees of the persons involved in the irregularities in the Court of Appeals and other persons.

In the end, the high tribunal dismissed Justice Hector Hofilena, suspended Jose Sabio Jr. for two months without pay, severely reprimanded Presiding Justice Conrado Vasquez, reprimanded Justice Bienvenido Reyes, admonished Justice Myrna Vidal, and referred PCSO Chairman Camilo Sabio's act of trying to influence his brother to the Bar Confidant and Justice Sabio's complaint against Francis de Borja to the Department of Justice for appropriate action.

The consensus was that the judgment of the Supreme Court was less than satisfactory and not even comprehensive. For example, no action was taken on the alleged interference of Atty. Roger Arroyo and his lawyer Jesus Garcia in the case against Ilusorio. Recently retired Supreme Court Justice Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, herself a former member of the Court of Appeals, refused to accept it as her parting article on Sept. 12, criticizing what she considered the lenient action taken against the Sabio brothers.

All told, the action taken by the Supreme Court on the irregularities connected to this case was less than satisfactory to the public that was expecting more than a slap on the wrist on the erring justices of the Court of Appeals.

At first, the action of the Court of Appeals on the Lozada case was even more disappointing if not actually outraging.

When the case arose last February, the appearance of Rodolfo Lozada at the congressional rebuttle blower against no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo and her wife in the 2004-ZTE deal gave the people a new and almost forgotten hope that venality in the government would at last be revealed and the crooks finally exposed and punished.

But when the Senate began hearing the sworn testimony of Lozada against the guilty parties in the smelly deal, he was suddenly whisked away to Hong Kong beyond our jurisdiction. When he decided to come back, he was met at the airport by a group of unidentified persons who hustled him into a closed vehicle that took him against his will all over Metro Manila while apparently waiting for orders from elsewhere. They forced him to sign a false affidavit before finally releasing him at the La Salle Greenhills.

In this refuge, Lozada was visited by Mike Arroyo, who is the chief of staff of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, another unknown "friend" tempted him with P500,000 to dissuade him from testifying in the Senate. Lozada later called a press conference that he said saved him from being silenced by the plotters against him. He mentioned the names of several prominent figures from the administration, particularly Secretary Gen Nereus, who appeared to be most anxious to "secure" him from the senators.

The 87 page decision of the Court of Appeals dismissed the Lozada petition despite all these known and published facts. Most of his allegations were rejected for lack of corroboration, although he was alone during his secret ordeal, inside like a caged victim whose testimony alone is expected by the courts even without supporting witnesses. On the petitioner's charge of Secretary Ermita's complicity in his abduction, the Court said that "it would be too much to accept," as if high government officials were all crimes guns.

Finally, there is the irrelevant but unprecedentedly stupid argument that Lozada could not have been abducted because "This Court also takes note that Rodolfo even attended an anti-Iraq rally in Makati and has been on campus tours not only in Metro Manila but also other parts of the country."

To prove he was not abducted before all that? Or that those subsequent events operated to condone his abduction and vouch-away all the abuses he suffered at the hands of his unnamed tormentors? This is probably what is called "a bridge to nowhere."

The 'Big Picture'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN EMCEE who, during a wedding reception, asked all husbands to stand next to the one person who had been most helpful to them and had made their lives worth living. Almost everyone stood and stood beside... the bartender!

* * *

I know that many wives reading the joke above may feel resentful, for wives in fact have made many untold sacrifices for their husbands. In today's Gospel (Mt. 20: 1-16), Jesus relates the parable about the generosity of laborers who left shortchanged by their employers at the end of the day. From the point of view of justice, then who worked longer in the vineyard should have received more. But from the point of grace, they received equal wages with those who worked less. Instead of complaining, may we learn to be obedient...instead of being focused on our little sorrows, may we see God's "big picture" in our lives.

* * *

There are many things we do not, and cannot understand in this life. Why, for instance, do the good suffer and the bad seem to prosper in this life? Whenever we encounter such enigmatic mysteries, let us take the road of even rather than doubt. The road of doubt is the road that leads to nowhere. The road of trust leads to the conviction that God is ever here.

* * *

Last Sept. 15, I said a funeral Mass for Jaraldo "Elroy" Dimpoloc, who was called home by the Lord at the age of 40. Why? Why him? Why now? "Elroy" was such a simple, honest person who, in the words of Lt. Raul Petronella, was a big loss in the Department of Public Works and Highways. At the time of his demise, "Elroy" was the OIC district engineer of the Isabela 2nd District Engineering Office. From the point of view of justice, surely there are other DPWH officials who "deserve" early retirement from this earthly life, but they are still around. Why instead take away a good man? Why here? Why now? Again in humility we say: "Lord, we do not understand, but, your will be done!"

* * *

"Is God asleep?" How often have we asked this question in frustration, especially when we have been cruelly corrupted and injustice seemed to reign unchecked? We must not give up on God's justice, goodness and love. To do so is to give up on our greatest treasure and that is precisely what the evil one would want us to do. Through it all, we must believe—and keep on believing...that there is a God who is in control, that there is a plan, and that there is a God who sees it all.

* * *

Speaking of seeing, did you get to see the full moon last Sept. 15? The moon was bigger and brighter than usual, but how many of us did not even get to see it as we, because we were "busy" with more important things in life. The moon is a beautiful reminder of God's gentle presence in our midst. May the mellow moonlight remind us of peace, and assure us that everything happens and unfolds according to God's will and time. We cannot force, we can see control and manipulate life and its seasons. Remember? Patience? No. Resilient. There are many things beyond our control in this life, and there are many things given to us, as all the more we should be humble and grateful and strive to give back our very best to life, and to the Giver of life.

* * *

And speaking of getting back, last Friday, an elderly woman walked into my office and told me she was giving back an antique painting which she said belonged to the Society of the Divine Word. It had been in their house for many years now, given to them many years ago. When I looked at the wooden frame of the 5 x 4 painting, I saw the letter "SVD" intricately engraved on it. It found its way back to us on this our centennial year in the Philippines. Only God knows the story behind this painting, the history, the situation, the characters involved. This whole event made me realize how small we are and how big God is. The problem with many of us is that we often get so engrossed in the picture (our picture), and we often forget the frame that holds it.

* * *

Inviting you to our "Walk with God" this Oct. 4 (Saturday). The starting point will be at the Urdaneta City Cathedral at 8 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at the Manaoag Shrine at 11 a.m. Let's walk the 11-kilometer stretch from Urdaneta to Manaoag with prayers, sacrifice and thanksgiving.

* * *

Rasley Miranda invites you to a lay forum on "How to Care for Alzheimer's Patients" on Sept. 27, at Assumption Hall, Christ the King Seminary, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There will also be free bone screening. For inquiries, please call 7732282 or 09173151949.

* * *

Here's a text message worth pondering: "Word. I was dying in faith high school and post-college. Then I was dying to finish college and start working. Then I was dying to start a family. And then I was dying to retire, and now I'm dying, and suddenly I realized I forgot to live."

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me and show me always the "Big Picture." Amen.

Never again, never ever

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

TODAY, 36 YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT MARCOS imposed martial law. Mere accidents, Proclamation 1081—the order declaring martial law, though dated Sept. 21, 1972—was actually signed by Marcos and endorsed on the evening of the day after, Sept. 22.

Immediate effects of martial law. To implement Proclamation 1081, Marcos promulgated General Order No. 1 on which, he, as "Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces ... assume[d] all powers of government and places[d] all agencies and instrumentalities of the government under [his] direction and control." He also ordered the suppression by force of any acts committed in defiance of his decree.

Both houses of Congress were abolished and Marcos ruled the country by means of decrees. The judiciary remained opened but lost its independent bargaining (General Order No. 3 removed from the courts the power to rule on all cases involving the validity of 1081 or any order issued pursuant to the proclamation. In short, the rule of law vanished and the rule by law of one man began.

Most media—television, radio and newspapers—were padlocked. Those that were allowed to operate and by Marcos' cronies, like the now defunct Daily Express, were allowed to operate. Mass actions, demonstrations and rallies were prohibited. Curfew was imposed and hostage feared for Filipino hostages.

Because the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus (the writ) was suspended, anyone could be detained indefinitely. The courts were powerless to require the government to release a detainee, much less to justify the reasons for the detention. In fact, on the third night of Sept. 23, opposition leaders like Ninoy Aquino, Jose Diokno, Francisco Soriano and Ramon Mitra Jr., as well as media personalities like Joaquin Roces, Teodoro Locsin Jr., Maximo Soliven and Antonio Donesita, were all arrested and detained indefinitely without bail.

According to Marcos, these were two reasons he invoked law like Muslim rebellion in the South and the New People's Army (NPA) insurgency in the North. To the opposition, however, there was only one explanation: Marcos desire to retain power beyond the expiration of his last term on Dec. 30, 1973. Philippine presidents were then limited to one renewable for the many ministries of human rights committed under his regime and could not be prosecuted for his accumulation of ill-gotten wealth.

Restrictions martial law! Because of the lessons learned from our martial law experience and the indefinite suspension of the writ, the phrase, Constitution—which was evoked after Marcos was overthrown during the bloodless Edsa revolution in 1986—tend to debase martial law and to limit severely the grounds for suspending the writ.

Thus, under the 1987 Constitution, martial law may be proclaimed and the writ suspended only on two grounds—invasion and rebellion, and only for a maximum of 60 days. Martial law does not stop the operation of the Constitution or Congress or the courts. In fact, the chief executive is required, within 48 hours, to report in person the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the writ to Congress, which may revoke such actions by majority vote of all its members "voting jointly."

In turn, the Supreme Court may review the factual basis of the proclamation and/or the suspension. It must promulgate its decision thereon within 30 days.[1] No person could be indefinitely detained because the Constitution requires the release of those arrested "in three days," unless they are lawfully charged in court within that period.

Due to these severe restrictions, martial law is said to be "toothless" now. The drafters of the Charter wanted to make sure that it would be used in good faith, solely to defend the country from a real "invasion" or "rebellion," and that no president could misuse it or suspend the writ to advance a personal agenda like term extension.

However, I see a big loophole, because of their desire to stupidly the lifting of martial law by requiring only a majority vote of all lawmakers, even the highest body to revoke it. In short, Congress may have made it equally easy for a sobering President to have martial law extended indefinitely by the same vote to execute one. Hence, a President that wanted Congress can still misuse "toothless" martial law. Such is the reality Supreme Court would find its reasons sophisticated by law.

Emergency rule worse. In any event, the current bill, initiated by Senator Defensor Santiago and Cayetano, is not "emergency rule." Although the end game is the same, i.e., one person rule to retain power, the means to be used would no longer be dressed up martial law; it would be the naked iron fist of emergency rule.

Martial law, Philippine style—minted Marcos—was not wayward. It was "constitutional authoritarianism." It was based on Section 16, Article VII of the 1935 Constitution, and legitimized further by the 1973 Charter that the compliant Marcos Supreme Court ruled to have been validly ratified during "citizens' assemblies." The legal boilerplate seemed Marcos of international respectability, the support of the military and 1986 when his constitutional façade crumbled.

On the other hand, being lawless and totally devoid of constitutional basis, emergency rule can not obtain international legitimacy. Even the military cannot justify it vaguely as not wishing to be the first to declare that "hath the armed forces as the protector of the people and the State." Neither could it expect the support of our people.

Never again to martial law. Never ever to emergency rule.

• • •

Comments are welcome at thefactsgospel.net. Read previous columns at www.inquirer.net/opinion/columns/panganiban.

Barangay power

FOR MANY OF US BORN GROWN UP IN THE PROVINCE (where commerce life is still alive), there was no question about the importance of the barangay government (and its officials). After all, who provided the round upstairs in the daily (in-outdoor dance held in the evening which young men and women looked forward to)? Who patrolled the neighborhood at night? Who donated the trophies for the Sgt. Basketball league? When there was something strange in the neighborhood, who did you have to call?

I know all this because my maternal grandfather, Lolo Aloloo, used to be the barangay captain of Barangay 25 in Cagayan de Oro, when barangays were not yet the basic unit for vote-buying, and poverty was not yet as bad as now. Also because of my paternal uncles are now barangay officials in Agusan del Norte where, incidentally, as thatcher-like dictator of the famous Agusanon province the word barangay comes from. (A barangay was a wooden boat used by Malay settlers in the Philippines in pre-Hispanic times. It was large enough to carry a small clan.)

Today, in Metro Manila, with its many subdivisions and mushrooming condominium buildings, the barangay seems to be losing its importance. People don't even know who their barangay chairman is. (Mine is Conor Seapera—according to the Internet!)

Still, the barangay remains very important. So much so that even the Local Government Code recognized it! I learned this only recently when we were required to submit a photocopy of the Local Government Code to the barangay for a case at the UP College of Law. My group submitted a photo I took of the Barangay Payatas Council during a barangay planning session. We wrote that the photo illustrates the functions of the barangay as outlined in Sec. 384 of the Local Government Code which says that, "by the basic political unit, the barangay serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs."

School newbies is the primary role more important and more apparent than in poor barangays. To use the words of Espinosa from Dubdub of Payatas, the barangay officials are frontliners in the provision of basic services because they are the first public officials that poor residents run to. (In our case, only imagine how challenging it must be to be a barangay official of Payatas, which has come to be a symbol of poverty in the country.)

PHILSSA, a national network of NGOs has recognized the important role of the barangay and has adopted a two-pronged urban poverty-reduction strategy: (1) advocating before government for the only law (RA 7279) requiring socialized poverty programs done at the barangay level in collaboration with barangay officials. That is why it is helping Payatas come up with a national Barangay Development Plan (BDP). National in the sense that funds are spent in a way that prioritizes the most basic and urgent needs of the residents. This is why community orientation is very poor but population barangay like Payatas.

The photo we submitted showed the Barangay Payatas councilors and Espinosa from putting over the results of a socio-economic survey done in the barangay by our institute as commissioned by PHILSSA. The institute on Philippine Culture (IPC) also provided technical assistance. Seven group discussions (FGDs) it conducted among residents.

Surveys and FGDs as research tools are very useful as bases for the drafting of a rational BDP because they reveal the most urgent needs of the residents. In the case of Payatas, for instance, the survey revealed that the most urgent needs of the residents are not in the areas of access to clean water, access to electricity and access to health centers. (The listed barriers for economic activity but describes poverty as a problem of access to entitlements.) In the long term, the most important improvements needed are those that will provide sustainable livelihood and security of land tenure.

These are very basic needs that are true for other poor barangays as well. In fact, the need for basic services in most barangays is so great that it begins the mind when many barangay officials would rather build waiting sheds and basketball courts! Surely, that's not only what the barangays are there for. Perhaps, it's because they honestly do not have information on how to draft a BDP or development plans. And that's where the survey come at handy.

A similar survey was commissioned by PHILSSA in barangay Bagbaguing Bayan in Novaliches when there are also many pockets of slum communities formed by migrants who were attracted by the many factories in the area. The survey results were more or less the same. Using the results of the survey as the basis, a workshop toward a BDP was conducted by representatives from various slum communities and POs. In the opening remarks at the planning workshop, the kapitan promised that he and the councilors will see to it that the plans are carried out especially in the area of health services since he is a medical doctor.

It must be noted that the drafting of a BDP also helps prevent corruption. Under the Local Government Code, barangays get a share from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and are given the power to enact revenue measures. Thus, barangays handle huge sums of money in most cases, however, nowhere are kept to the public about this. Also when a BDP is drafted with the help of NGOs and POs like what Barangay Payatas and Bagbaguing Bayan have done, transparency is assured.

Indeed, it is a testament to the sincerity of the officials in these two barangays that they let NGOs and POs help them draft a rational BDP. These two barangays show that they value their constituents and are willing to empower them in the responsibility of planning well for each role. For this they are leading the way for the 42,027 other barangays in the country which should all be drafting their own rational BDPs now.

For, during these hard times, it's only most people we have missed the power of barangays to make a real dent on poverty in the country. Instead of waiting for the slow response of the higher ups whose idea of a national anti-poverty program seems to be limited to giving dolles to every political favor with the poor.

We can't run grocery on barangay or a time.

COMMENTARY

Jaweje Gilig Bayot

John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

THEY SAID

Atrocities

"Civilians were the ones killed. It's really atrocious. The life of a Muslim is no more than the life of a Christian."

—Bagobo tribesman Datu Dilagan Dilangalen, after MILF rebel-on-rebel offensive ravages Mindanao

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

A personal history of hamburgers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

STILL SMILING FULL FROM A LATE LUNCH, MY husband and I decided to split a Shrillers Burger for dessert. We swapped by their order at the Fiesta de Santa Rosa and were given a choice from their "standard" list of burgers or from their new line of "Burgers by Design." These burgers range in choices from the "Filipino Fiesta," which combines a hamburger patty with onion rings and bacon, bathed in barbecue sauce, and the "Big Island," which has the patty topped with veggies and a pineapple slice. I chose the "Bistro Burger," which combines the hamburger patty with caramelized onions, brie cheese and a light mustard.

We had no reason to regret our choice. The burger in the "Bistro Burger" was hefty and tasted smoky and charred, just the way I like my hamburger. The toppings added just enough flavor, and that set it apart from the all-beef patty of Filipino with their fruit salad with tangy lemon dressing, the "Bistro Burger," even halved, was enough for a filling dessert.

The "Burgers by Design" seems to be an attempt by the locators behind "Southern Burger" to give their menu a more upscale appeal. Not that we really can afford the P200 plus cost of a gourmet hamburger, but has also given variety of fast food burgers and has begun looking for variety as well as flavor.

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* * *

PERHAPS the most basic of Philippine hamburgers was that served by the now defunct "Federal" grocery in Quiapo, Manila, although I did not get to taste this until I was in college, after it was no longer functioning. I remember bringing me there. "Federal's" hamburger was nothing but a juicy patty between two slices of toasted white bread. Nevertheless, it was pretty good and filling, especially with *halo-halo* (ensconced in "banana" made from evaporated milk) eaten out in half-for dessert.

* * *

I'll admit, my son was a savoury boy and a picky eater; with self-imposed taboos against certain food—black food like dirtgrass, lamb and other slimy creatures, fish and vegetables. He wanted to eat only hamburgers, and ignorant until my husband took to stopping by a "Burger Machine" orders every day on their way home from school. In the car, my son would wolf down a burger or two. And in no time at all, our scrawny boy ballooned into a bulking teenager. His anxieties by now may be dragging with his wife's mantle of cholesterol, but at least he's no longer underweight!

And that is how he has become the family's expert on hamburgers: it was he who first alerted us to "Brothers Burger," which he said aspired to serve hamburgers beyond the diet, meatless fast food variety. Then he led me to the Timugan, where my mother-in-law Herminia Aurora, and it to curb days, we gladly endured standing around and waiting for a vacant table in its cramped premises.

While the rest of us would be content with a "Brothers Burger" or even a "Double Brothers Burger," we resolved to have the "Brunder," a behemoth packing ten pounds worth of ground beef to a single patty. But what we patrons lacked in appetite we upped with taste, unanimously asking for the blue cheese on the side, to temper the tasty burger's tangy bite and add a delicious dimension.

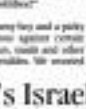
* * *

THESE days, our favorite burgers are those served up by "Good Burger," a small stall tucked beside "Bistro and Tinco" along G-9 in the now-crowded Tomas Morato area. Owned by "Good Burger's" burgers meet health food standards, being made from chicken and vegetarian substitutes. The real surprise is that it was our decidedly carnivorous son who discovered these "alternative" burgers and alerted us to them.

It's a big of our favorite burgers would not be complete without a mention of "Black Moondoggie," whose only surviving outlet seems to be the original one in Tagaytay. Long before we built our weekend home, "Black Moondoggie" was on the list of must-have pasalubong whenever we were in Tagaytay—the hamburger made from mushrooms, of course) for our son and the expedite for our daughter. Even burgers made from mushrooms is burgers, by design—my how our burger menu has expanded!

* * *

Tzipi Livni's Israel



WORLD VIEW

Fania Oz-Salzberger

BABA—IMMEDIATELY RESIGNED!" ISRAELIS tend to call their leaders by their first name or BIBI/Bibi/Ehud/Shimon. But don't be fooled. Tzipi (Tzippora) Livni is nobody's close friend. She dislikes small talk, personal intimacies and crowd smiles; make her an atypical Israeli. Perhaps the country needs exactly this just now: an atypical Israeli at the steering wheel.

Newly elected as leader of the Kadima party, Livni only barely defeated her rival, Shaul Mofaz. Her victory, however, doesn't mean immediate national changes and set to resign, is hardly her best asset. But, beyond narrow party confines, optimism polls are exceptionally kind: a vast cross section of the Israeli public wants Livni to lead. It thus bears a white-collar Mofaz was the favorite. It also bears primarily on Livni's non-male persona. If the country is to rebuild Olmert's coalition and become Israel's next prime minister, Livni's initials must at home and abroad will be outstanding.

The reason is that Livni is the quintessential enemy of "Middle Israel." She comes from the heartland of a messianic and nationalistic civil society fueled by extremism and rage.

Despite her brief spell in Shamir, Israel's spy service, Livni is deeply civilian when set against Israel's militarized landscape. Given reasonable security measures, she may be able to navigate a peaceful new way to peace. She represents the civic values that have been common in many "middle Israelis" ever since Theodore Herzl first put them in writing: the Jewish state must be modern and democratic to the core. It should respectfully negotiate with the Arabs and other citizens in their confined quarters. It belongs in the world of nations, and seriously strives for peace with its Arab neighbors and equality for all its citizens.

The vast center of the Israeli political spectrum has consistently shared these basic principles of democracy and equality for all its citizens.

Unfortunately, the Israeli center is paralyzed by its own political ignorance, by its religious challenges, by its simply want to live safely, and, if at all possible, to escape both the dilemmas of Israel's basic right to exist. Yet she is ready to do business with pragmatic Palestinians and offer them full sovereignty in exchange for full peace. She without allow the repatriation of Palestinians to Israel's proper. She sometimes really wanted "right of return"). Last but not least, she is ready to let Arab life-suffering Jews and Arabs unite hope, are open-hearted, and free from nationality.

Here is an Israel that you may not recognize, especially if the electronic media is your window on the world. In Israel's media's market of ideology and obsession, the bar for the use of means to almost inside the point. After all, Israel is not the United States, and gender can never work in society's sole adjective.

Nevertheless, if Livni becomes Israel's prime minister, she will be the first Israeli woman to occupy the world's first country where all three branches of government are led by women. She would join the head of the legislature, Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik, and the head of the judiciary, Supreme Court President Dorit Beinisch—one had for a matching matrix with generations-turned-politicians and remarkable public image.

Middle Israel has produced the Livni mistake, but there are many other forces at work. Livni may fail in some ways yet seriously and recognize the indispensability of planning well for each role. For this they are leading the way for the 42,027 other barangays in the country which should all be drafting their own rational BDPs now.

For, during these hard times, it's only most people we have missed the power of barangays to make a real dent on poverty in the country. Instead of waiting for the slow response of the higher ups whose idea of a national anti-poverty program seems to be limited to giving dolles to every political favor with the poor.

We can't run grocery on barangay or a time.

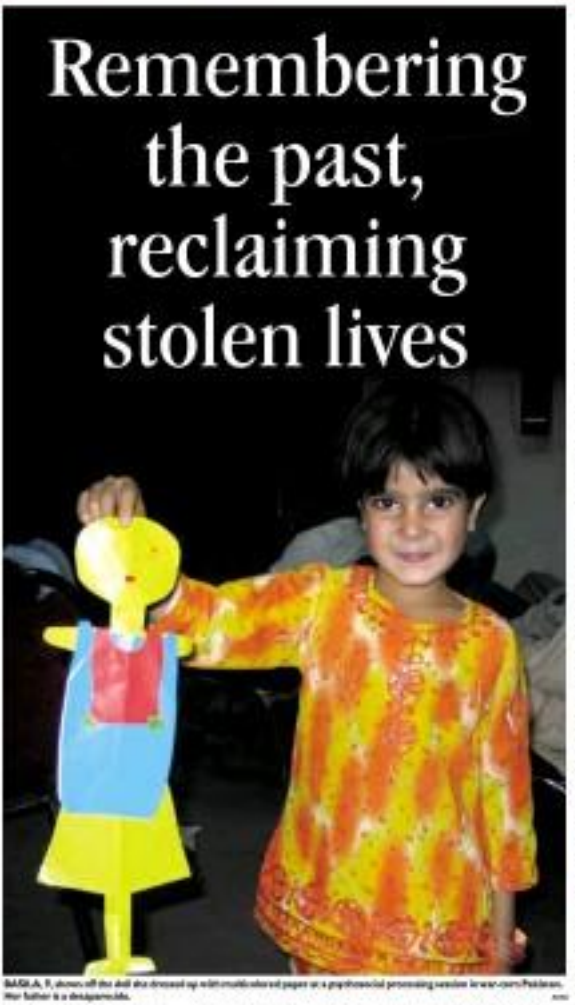
Fania Oz-Salzberger is professor and chair of Modern Jewish Studies at Ahmadi University in Haifa-Arava Australia and director of the Shalom Hartman Institute. She taught at the Faculty of Law, University of Haifa, Israel. Her books include "Translating the Enlightenment" and "Israelia in Berlin."

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jaremesis@inquirer.com.ph

Edite Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.

Remembering the past, reclaiming stolen lives



BASIA A. Y. shows off the doll she dressed up with crushed-shell paper at a psychosocial processing session in war-torn Pakistan. Her father is a desaparecido.

(Editor's Note: Thirty-six years ago today, Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. Thousands fell victim to his regime. The victims include people without genuine hand-me-down guns. The recent launching of the book "Reclaiming Stolen Lives" highlights the practice of enforced disappearances not only in the Philippines but also in seven other countries in Asia.)

By Jo-Ann Tinsay-ao-Valerio

JUST TWO THREE YEARS OLD when his father was seized in the Philippines by government forces in 1983, "Yuvraj Chaudhary (before) and ready-to-go, he should come home," Angkhana recalls.

Basila, a 6 year-old girl in Pakistan, strikes up the drama-ic pose of her doll with mutilated-looked pieces of paper. She says though that her dream is for her father to come home and once again take his seat at the dinning table.

Parvina, a middle age mother in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir says in pain and anger that since her young son disappeared, she has searched for him amid the repression and threats to her own life by the Indian security forces and state police.

Public issue

Angkhana Neelapaijit, wife of the recently disappeared Somchai, a human rights lawyer in Thailand, says, "I don't want it to be believed that forced disappearances is a personal matter; it is actually a public issue that everyone must pay attention to."

Jong, Basila, Parvina and Angkhana are among the hundreds of thousands of family members of the disappeared in the Asian continent. Their experience of having a disappeared loved one has brought them together along with other family members from some countries in South and Southeast Asia through the founding of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (Afad) in 1998 in the Philippines.

Society's conscience

"These families...wives, children, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters of the disappeared—share that the Asian culture is a deeply wounded one that needs to be healed. Their existence also serves as 'society's conscience' and an indelible proof that disappeared victims once lived in our midst and that had their own names, faces, families and homes.

"Reclaiming Stolen Lives," an Afad publication, is a book that helps society remember the past. Needless it is that the truth will heal us, for it speaks of the gravity of the phenomenon of unresolved involuntary disappearance in China, India (Jammu and Kashmir), Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

UN Convention

The book highlights the need for the signing and ratification of the UN Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for the enactment of a corresponding local law. The countries' unique circumstances are parts of sea shared history in Asians.

In many Asian countries, anyone can become a desaparecido (disappeared person). Thus, it is urgent to have a UN Convention and a corresponding local legislation to protect all persons from this cruel human rights violation.

Article 2 of the UN Convention defines enforced disappearances as follows: "For the purposes of this Convention, enforced disappearance is considered to be the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty committed by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which places such a person outside the protection of the law."

Social volcano

In the Philippines, the first case of recorded enforced disappearance was the abduction on March 29, 1971 of Carlos "Charlie" del Rosario, secretary general of the Kabataang Makabayan.

Describing the Philippines as a country sitting on top of a "social volcano," Marcos declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972.

As the Marcos regime tightened its grip, students activists, union organizers, peasant organizers and rural folks disappeared. These occurred in the '70s and early '80s—a time when the country was experiencing severe economic hardships and the rise of the revolutionary movement in the countryside.

The gap between the rich and the poor became aggravated by the fall and the Marcos regime.

Disappearances also happened in the Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo administrations. The root of the problem is in "state of denial in terms of the human rights situation and economic crisis in the country today," says the book.

In China, Tiananmen Square, the heart of Beijing, became the site of the June 1989 massacre of protesters, which also resulted in the disappearances of young professors. The bereaved mothers were not even allowed to mourn in public. Jeng Ding Zilin along with some of her fellow mothers formed an organization called "The Tiananmen Mothers."

Until, too, is the government's persecution of the Falun Gong, a movement whose members devote themselves to the "cultivation of Dafa in our selves and the improvement of their mental and moral quality." Massive human rights violations, including disappearances, remain unresolved in the country.

Pained paradise

The Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir is a land of beauty and historical significance but is a "pained paradise." The main cause of the people's suffering is the repression by the Indian security forces and the state police.

The phenomenon of enforced disappearance has evolved since the decades ago when the people started to appeal for independence and later rebelled against the repressive system.

Recently, the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, Afad's member-organization, along with the mothers, wives and relatives of disappeared disappeared graves and mass graves estimated to be close to a thousand and which are believed to be those of Kashmir disappearances.

Jasmina and Kashmir, India and Pakistan have a lot to learn from self sacrificing people like their own Mahatma Gandhi, who is revered in history as an advocate of prosperity justice and peace without shedding a drop of blood.

East Timor

Indonesia is endowed with rich natural resources. Sadly, these are amassed by foreign powers and some people in power, their families and cronies as they do the common people suffer from abject poverty. Then President Sukarno ruled with the poor in many ways but Suharto grabbed power at the cost of thousands of lives, leading to his more than 32 years of dictatorship.

The people's struggle amid bloody repression led to the separation of Timor Leste as a nation through the leadership of Xanana Gusmao, Jose Ramos Horta, Bishop Carlos Belo and a lot more who championed the cause of liberating Timor Leste from the Indonesian regime.

Aceh

With the formation of the armed free Aceh Movement (GAM) in Oct. 1976, Aceh was declared a "Military Operations Area" from 2000 to 1998. The military and the police targeted the civilian population to destroy the GAM, resulting in massive human rights violations including disappearances.

Former leaders of the liberation movement were elected to the top government posts during the recent election in Aceh. This new government faces the resolution of thousands of human rights violations and reconstruction because of the tsunami, which devastated the province and neighboring countries in 2004.

Closed case, is the threat of "stealth fascism" to the indigenous peoples in resource-rich Papua.

Maoist

An article on Maoist, a former child chair, plays a significant role in the book.

The case may yet become a bleak chronicle in the campaign for justice in Indonesia. Munir, husband of Suciwati and a dozing ticket to their two very young children, was poisoned on a Garuda flight from Jakarta to Amsterdam on Sept. 6, 2004. The intimidation of human rights community mounted his sudden death.

Nepal

Enforced disappearances in Nepal started during the monarchy but this peaked during the decade-long conflict with the launching of armed insurgency in 1996 by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist).

In close 10 years, Nepal experienced the worst human rights violations, including unexplained killings and disappearances. Nevertheless, the people have showed their trust in the CPN-Maoists as the group got the biggest votes during the elections.

The Nepalese are aware that both the monarchy and the Maoists committed human rights violations, including disappearances. However, they continue to hope that the new government will not resort to "limited amnesia," which will make Nepal like other Asian countries where impunity is entrenched.

Nepal has become the youngest republic in the world. On June 13, 2008, Gyanendra, Nepal's last king, left the palace, saying that "he had accepted the political course his country has taken."

Then, Nepal has reached the crescendo of political transition from a monarchy to a republic with the successful conduct of the constituent assembly (CA) polls on April 10, 2008. The announcement of Nepal as a republic during the recent CA meeting and the existence of the king are indications toward durable peace and upholding human rights and the rule of law.

Jhelum River

In Pakistan, it is not only the warring parties which inflict casualties but also the civilians—old and young women, men and children. The book cites the "excessive authorities' greed for power and their collaboration with and consequent subservience on the United States."

The country's attention is exacerbated by the massive 7.6-magnitude earthquake on Oct. 8, 2005. As of November 2005, the government's official death toll was 87,350. The earthquake has greatly affected the Pakistan-controlled parts of Jammu and Kashmir, displacing tens of thousands of families many of whom continue to live in tents along the Jhelum river.

The famous river used to provide the people's daily water needs as well as vegetation for their agricultural lands. It has become a source of conflict between Pakistan and India. To day, the river, which was conserved in 2006 is endowed to them for the needs of the Pakistanis' political future, continues to be a silent witness to the hardships and pains of the common people, including families of disappearances.

Tamils

In Sri Lanka, the dispute between the Sinhalese and the Tamils was exacerbated by administrations whose main priorities were in favor of maintaining themselves in power. The Tamils' peaceful efforts to live independently were all in vain.

The Tamil's struggle for a separate nationhood is the formation in 1983 of the militant group movement called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which decided to meet government repression by force. On the other hand, the Sinhalese youth earlier formed their organization called the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP/People's Liberation Front). Fighting the succeeding governments, the Tamils' just demands are drowned by the ever-increasing secession that they are here a subaltern people.

The succeeding governments showed some of how to resolve the internal conflict but these failed as seen in thousands of human rights violations including disappearances. Mood continues today about under the current presidency of Mahinda Rajapakse, who claims to have a human rights background.

Thailand

Thailand is a "country that has fed, loved a and sheltered numerous democratic political park since its establishment as a constitutional monarchy in 1932." The succeeding governments came to power not by popular elections but through a series of 18 coup d'etats since the past 75 years.

Different factions, mostly from the military, had taken political power so that no regime has survived for a long time without the intervention of the monarchy, bureaucratic elites and military cliques.

While succeeding rulers claim that they defend the interests of the general public, the people suffer from the impact of political turmoil and the curtailment of their rights and freedoms. This situation has been a fertile ground for widespread violations which include massacres, killings and enforced disappearances. Among the reported cases of enforced disappearances happened during the Thammasat University Massacre (1976), Black May (1992) and coup (2006) are in Southern Thailand.

The book has graphs based on the annual UN data contained in an accompanying CD. The figure pales in comparison with the thousands of cases of enforced disappearances. However, the documentation is a breakthrough and a step toward a more complete statistics of enforced disappearances cases on the continent.

Jo-Ann Tinsay-ao-Valerio is one the survivors of "Reclaiming Stolen Lives," which was launched on Quezon City, Philippines on Aug. 28 (the eve of the International Day of the Disappeared. The other writers are Angkhana, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso, Mukesh Kapila, Somsak Kosaisuk, Edalia B. Rajahin, Romeo D. Jasar, Darwin D. Abendala, Chong Chee and Santiago Canares. The book is distributed by the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances. Set in 10-222 9577-3792-4098; e-mail: afad@surfshop.net.ph)

INQUIRER Mindanao

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War wipes out years of effort to rebuild

YOUTH protestors rally in Manila against war in Mindanao, accusing the Arroyo administration of alleged collusion with the US government in its latest violence against Muslims. AFP

By Gamaliel Lazaro
Senior City

"THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE UPCOMING harvest season to use their manure and tractors but the first time, instead, they had to evacuate. They used their new tractor and trailer to bring their families to the evacuation site."

Bernardo Sandino, executive director of the Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Inc., was talking about the people in the village of Dalingasan in Pikit, North Cotabato, who had to flee their homes when violence broke out.

Government and Moro rebel forces have engaged in sporadic clashes following the failed signing of the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Christian and Muslim residents, including those from the surrounding villages of Dalingasan, Barangay and Ipuldon in Pikit, took refuge in Ameen Building in Dalingasan. But unlike the other communities, they were prepared, Sandino said.

"They were more organized," he said. "They were able to stockpile their food, they were able to apply their disaster preparedness plans they learned since they started living in the area."

Work gains wiped out

But she said this was not something to be happy about.

After 25 years of rebuilding efforts in communities in Mindanao, all the gains they worked hard for were easily wiped out every time war broke out, Sandino said.

"We need peace to allow the communities to thrive," he said. "Without peace, everything that we've been doing in the communities will be undone."

Armed conflict usually starts in Pikit every three years, he said.

Dalingasan is one among the 39 communities assisted by Action Repair, a project of Sandino's foundation that aims to rebuild the lives of uprooted people in Mindanao.

Another disaster

Funded by the European Union, the project has helped the people how to manage disasters, as well as increase food production by giving out farm machinery to help them get back on their feet again.

While nine other Moro communities, Dalingasan was classified as disaster-prone because of its recurrent clashes between government troops and Moro rebels.

But only days after the evacuation, gun fire was heard and large explosions, said Imam Ibrahim Ampuan, who is leader. It took the disaster management training, clashes erupted anew, forcing the people to flee.

"Just when the communities already so excited to start life all over again, and how did some broke out and they have to flee the houses it took them years to build," Sandino said.

"When they left, there wouldn't be seen almost ages [to harvest]," said Moamin Ampuan, a local staff member of the foundation.

"For a while, they couldn't go back just to check on their farms without a clearance from the barangay captain about their safety," she said.

Peace talks

In a Sept. 6 report, Bai Ali Indayla, chair of the human rights group Karapat, said that of the 500 evacuees staying at the Ameen Evacuation Center, only 29 had returned to their home despite fear of being hit in the crossfire.

The people refused to go back until the government resumes peace negotiations with the Moro front, Indayla said.

Amirah Ali Lidasan, peace chair of the Moro party-list group Bayan Muna-mores, expressed fear that the breakdown of peace talks with the Moro rebels would lead to a crackdown on Moro activists, similar to the military's anti-communist Oplan Bantay Laya.

Human rights groups have blamed the counter-insurgency program for the rise of extrajudicial killings of political activists in the country.

"We call on the government and the MILF to assure those who go back to their communities and children could attend their education," Indayla said.

"I've watched the people take the first steps, and start life all over again. But just when they're back on their feet, war breaks out again," Sandino said.

Daily battles

The armed conflict is just one of the calamities that people in the most depressed villages in Mindanao had to battle every day to survive, she said. They also have to contend with poverty, government neglect and natural catastrophes, such as flooding and drought.

Sandino recalls how residents of Sitio Kubanawan in Barangay Balingasag, San Fernando, Bukidnon, have lived for years without water.

When her foundation brought all materials to their water system, the whole community had to carry the whole stretch of the pipe and walked eight kilometer to their village, crossing rivers and rockies, just to bring water to their parched land.

It took them three days to haul all materials to the village, she said.

Gov't-backed war

In another case, Sandino said, people in the hinterland village of Sitio Cogonon in Tenilo, Aguinaldo Sur, celebrated the setting up of their first rice mill that would spare them the tedious job of pounding their palay harvest as they could have ever to eat.

"There could be no failure in this kind of project, considering the enthusiasm of the people," she said. "But no matter how hard we try, when the conditions for war is so strong and a government that supports it, all our efforts only go to waste and we have to start all over again."

As long as there is peace, people can always rise from poverty and disaster, Sandino said. But the worst disaster that could occur is when there, she added, was a government that supports war.

Christians, Muslims keep bond after attack on community

By Leah P Bagtay
Contributor

KUNG MAMMOSIT mayo dhip ato, mag-pabiblisi kayo rito (If you opted to evacuate, you could have informed us)," Kaiser Oday recalled what he told—albeit in jest—evacuees during a recent community dialogue in Barangay Mantay after the Aug. 18 siege of the Islamabigan town proper in Lanao del Norte.

Like any other community affected by the attacks that killed five, many families, mostly Christian, fled Mantay, taking a 30-minute boat ride to Oroquieta City.

"Everybody was in panic. Students were found everywhere," said village chief Kelbe Montevilla.

Such state of confusion resulted in the evacuation of at least 70 percent of the population. Those who fled included families living along the shorelines.

But Muslim families staying on the other side of the community, together with the barangay officials, remained.

"We believe that if we stayed here, they (armed men) will not harm us," Abdulsamad Dimaporing, a Moranao leader, who also serves as temporary barangay secretary, announced.

No guns allowed

On that morning, Dimaporing said, the Muslim families would go to the main highway on the northern end going to Marawi City. On the other end, going to Tubod, the provincial capital, the barangay officials, who are mostly Christians, were on guard. Mantay is among the villages along the national highway that connects the coastal towns.

KAIRON ODEK, a peace and development advocate, Mantay Barangay Capt. Julius Montevilla, and Moranao leader Abdulsamad Dimaporing, relate how they cope as a community with the Aug. 18 violence that killed their sons, Kolambugan, and other municipalities of Lanao del Norte. MINDY ALCANTARA

Neither group had firearms.

"If we were armed, we would surely be caught in the crossfire. It would be hard to determine whether we were members of CIO (Civilian Volunteer Organization) or soldiers or rebels or plain civilians," Dimaporing said. "So, we decided not to take up arms."

Time enough, at around 9 a.m., a series of elusive but costly communiqués of Islamabigan and Kolambugan were released and were believed to be from rebels spread as a hedge to fellow Islamists, just a kilometer away from the besieged hall.

"They saw us, we saw them. And for a long while, we just stayed as each other from afar. They did not make any move and we stood pat. Then, they left," Dimaporing narrated in a peaceful tone, relishing their experiences that day.

At around the same time, at the southern tip of the same stretch of road, around 20 armed men believed to be eighteen turned up. According to Montevilla, the group received a text message saying the whole barangay was taken hostage by the other armed group and they came to check.

Montevilla talked to the group, asking them to leave their community. They heeded.

The final bodies might have presented an imminent confrontation between fully armed groups, but the connection and confusion that descended in the community left the residents at a loss. Many could not understand what happened to them on that day. Others were distraught and hurt.

The day ended with 43 deaths, five of whom were soldiers and a police officer, 43 wounded and 56 houses burned in Kolambugan and Islamabigan, according to the Nation-al Disaster Coordinating Council.

Residents' ordeal

Though no direct atrocities took place in Mantay, the ordeal that the residents had gone through started to create a dent on the harmonious relationship between those who remained and those who stayed behind.

"Three days after the incident, all those who left came back. But an invisible gap tried to divide the Christians and Muslims in the community.

Sensing the tension, local officials called for a community dialogue during a barangay session held out at the barangay hall for all the ones where the Muslim families stayed, which locals called "SPCPD" (Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development).

It was around such a Bisaya-Muslim term to blame after it was declared a "session for peace and development" by the Bisaya-Muslim Peacebuilders Committee of the Moro National Liberation Front after the final peace agreement was signed between the government and the rebel group in 1996. The leaders call for those

MCPD had served as the mechanism implementing one feature of the process past.

Moranao integration

The armed integration of the Mantay families, who came from the interior towns and settled in this predominantly Christian village in 2000, was an arduous journey by itself.

After a series of dialogues between the Muslim and Christian residents, as well as several planning sessions, the barangay declared itself a Peace and Development Community (PDC) in 2001.

PDCs are conflict-affected or conflict-vulnerable areas, where transformation into self-sustaining and peaceful communities, have been supported by the United Nations Multi-Donor Program and now by its successor program, the GoP-UN Action for Conflict Transformation (ACT) for Peace Program.

The dialogue was called to discuss steps to sustain and even strengthen the harmonious coexistence of both Christians and Muslims, especially during trying times, Montevilla said.

Basing the latest community dialogue, "all of us, Christians and Muslims, poured our hearts out to break the tension between us," Oday said.

"We clarified it among ourselves and agreed that this conflict between the military and some groups of the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front), 'We are not part of this,'" Dimaporing added.

Community pact

After two hours of intense discussion, the community reached an agreement that Christians and Muslims should not take their books against the other, and come up with concrete steps on how to maintain peace in the place despite the tension gripping the province.

Resolved live on a white pad in Visayas and signed by barangay officials and several representatives, the community banned any form of weapons in the barangay and agreed to share information that may affect the residents.

"If we hear of ill plots by a group (more than fifteen) within, we'll inform the barangay officials and we will negotiate with that group not to do it. In the same manner, if such plans are to be carried out by Christian groups, the barangay officials will inform us and dissuade them from doing anything," said Dimaporing, whose family is among the 54 Muslim families now living among 262 Christian families in Mantay.

Head others armed families will affect the community, both groups decided that the Christian families will go to the homes of Muslim families if the opposite occurs. Christians, while the Muslim families will stay at the homes of Christian families if there responsible are Muslims.

But Dimaporing, Montevilla and Oday hoped it would not reach that point. "We, Muslims and Christians, just want to live in peace here as one community," Montevilla said.

Mantay is now even hosting other internally displaced people from Tanghal and Bituan towns.

"We can all peacefully coexist," Montevilla added.

The villagers are now doing their best to recover from the trauma caused by the violence and move on as one community, banking on the strength of the renewed bond between and among them.

The author is a communications specialist for the Act for Peace, a partnership between the Philippine government and the United Nations, which supports 251 peace and development communities in Mindanao and Palawan.

Across the NATION

Village stands up vs recall campaign

RESIDENTS pass by a church in San Luis, Pampanga, carrying placards in support of Pamintuan.

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A village stood up to declare it was not in on the plot to unseat Catholic priest Eddie Panlilio as Pampanga governor just as his detractors started to claim they were drawing closer to their 100,000-signature target to mount for recall elections.

Reniel Mendoza, president of the Kapunungan ng Kumbinsido nang Mamamayan Pampanga Inc. (Kamkampi), said the group would have all signatures attached to the recall petition that it would file at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) before Oct. 21.

But the group may have lost support from one village.

The Barangay Sindalan council here issued Resolution No. 09-08 on Sept. 8 objecting to Panlilio's ouster.

The stand was seen as new and dealing because it went against the position of the Pampanga Mayors' League and the provincial board.

Three groups supported the recall move mounted by Castillon for the "loss of confidence" in the leadership of Panlilio.

A copy of the resolution showed it was signed by engineer Arnel Sison, village chief, and councilors Eddie Layug, Nelson Bituin and Wilson Pamintuan. Diosdado Garing Jr., Alice Sison and Alfredo Sumulong Jr.

Councilor Pacific Dino and Sangguniang Kabataan chair Wendy Navarro did not sign the resolution.

The council posted copies of the resolution in public places and put up cartoonish allegedly illegal deals to make known its stand against the recall scheme.

Part of the resolution read: "The historic election in 2007 of a second-millennial republican governance in our province has reversed all kapampangans in the eyes of the country and of the world, bringing hope amidst despair and desolation over the state of economic and political governance of Pampanga."

The council appealed to other elected officials to "set aside partisanship, disagreement in style of governance, cabalism of elements of communication and focus and unify all efforts in bringing to fruition a process mind that is truly responsive to the actual needs of our people."

It called on "all of the people of Pampanga to actively play their part as responsible citizens to balance the equation of good governance."

Barangay captain Sison, also vice president of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) in San Fernando, said copies of the resolution had been furnished to the ABC for information or advisory.

He said even as the council opposed the recall, it has not barred Kamkampi volunteers from collecting voters' signatures.

Three barangay captains in San Fernando and former Rep. Avelino Dizon had signed the petition.

Violence almost broke out during a prayer rally initiated by running-priest Hidencio Reyes for the Sunday (Sunday) quarry workers and Panlilio and his supporters at the provincial capitol grounds on Friday.

It happened at 10:40 a.m. as 15 retrenched quarry workers boarded a single van behind Reyes. Panlilio and his supporters approached from the right side to merge with the quarry workers.

Shortly after the dismissed workers started backing out, shouting insinuates in their remarks. Only police near the flagpole of the Armed Deck on the premises stopped pursuit.

Aided when caused them to pull out, one of the quarry workers, Chris Domingo, said: "Young (Dizon) Ed parted me on the shoulder. He said to me 'Brod,'. He then pushed me back, saying, 'Mona kana (we will get that).'" —Nestle Dejan, Inquirer Central Luzon

CATHOLIC PRIEST Eddie Panlilio is the new area-additional kind of battle he has to and undo.

HEAD OF the recall campaign, Reuel Mendoza, campaigned for Lito Pineda during the elections.

Watchdog repeats plea for cleansing of voters' list

COMELEC CITY—THE PARTICIPATORY Council for Responsible Voting (PCRV) urged the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to cleanse the country's voters' list before the 2010 elections.

Ambassador Henrietta de Villa, PCRV chair, said they were also asking the Comelec to make the list of voters available online "so one of the elderly can do it (from home), instantly, automatic and practical 2010 national and local elections."

"With the voters' list on line, anybody would know whether a voter is qualified or not," she said Friday following a Comelec conference in Manila.

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"With the voters' list on line, anybody would know whether a voter is qualified or not," she said Friday following a Comelec conference in Manila.

De Villa said the PCRV was also pushing for the automation of future elections.

"The process was quick and there was no tension during the counting and canvassing, on the number of technology it saves time and resources," she said.

This 400MM had been accurate.

can be minimum of massive cheating and violence but the recent regional elections were generally orderly.

"The cheating must go hand in hand with all automation efforts by the 2010 polls," she said, adding that putting the voters' list online as a strategy could help eliminate discrepancies in the list and get rid of "ghost voters."

To ensure the poll body has the "pure and clean list of voters, the Comelec should complete the case of instances in identifying qualified voters," she said.

Fr. David Pascalia, PPCRV regional coordinator for the 2008 ARMM elections, said they noticed during the elections that there were "unqualified voters and flying voters." Edwin G. Pacommidio, Inquirer Mindanao

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BACOLOD CITY

Cop injured in clash with gunmen in bar

A POLICE officer here was wounded during a gunfight with two armed men Saturday, the police said.

Senior Insp. Oscar G. Dinahican, Bacolod police police chief, said PO2 Jun Emilio Balcuvenga was wounded in the abdomen after three armed men broke a bar here.

He said Balcuvenga went to the bar to check on the information but was isolated fired upon by the suspects, identified as John Philip Edmonson and Brandy Campano.

Despite suffering an injury in the incident, Dinahican said Balcuvenga was able to exchange gunfire with the suspects, who were later arrested by a team of police officers.

The two suspects, who pulled handguns after arrested, were now being interrogated while Balcuvenga was being treated in a hospital. Efrain C. Bacay, Inquirer Mindanao

■ TABUELARAN CITY

Gov: want Cancon if Cha-cha is pushed

THE LEAGUE of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) urged Congress to push for Charter change through a constitutional convention (Concon).

The move came in the form of a resolution that the LPP passed during its general assembly recently at the Marco Polo Hotel in Cebu City, according to Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who co-authored the resolution with Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia.

In opting for constitutional convention, both governors noted that "it is more democratic, participatory and the least controversial among the three modalities in amending or revising the Constitution." AT Dapalas, Inquirer Visayas

■ EVENT

Bonnie Maglaqui Jr., 59

BONNIE Gomez Maglaqui Jr., 59, father of Mexico, Pampanga, died early Friday after a year-long bout with hypertension. He was 59.

He is survived by wife, Rosette; children Bon Bon, Mia, Jan-Jan, Philip and Bhang; and grandchildren Lynn, Bianca, Bryan, Mateo, Isaac and Ilea.

His remains lie at the Arlington Funeral Homes in Mexico and is slated to Tuesday (Sept. 23) at the Manila Memorial Park on Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

'Bangus' flood Pangasinan town after slashing of fish cages

DAGUPAN CITY—IT'S FLOODing bangus (milkfish) in here, Pangasinan.

The sea olive on fish cages around the Cobcoban Island in Bolinao Bay were flushed open, freeing thousands of bangus in the open water to feed fishermen to catch.

On Friday, one spear cost as cheap (lived to P35 a kilo in local public market, said Robert Ibbo, a businessman in the town. The normal bangus price is from P90 to P130 a kilo.

Fish vendors had a hauling spree, even sending boats to buy bangus from fishermen at that sea.

"This price is likely to maintain in the next three days," Ibbo said.

SPO1 Salvador Dizon of the local police said the slashing of the fish cages was reported to the police on Thursday by an official of the PGP Aqua Development Corp., owner of the cages.

Bonny Dimaya, the firm's finance officer, said each fish cage had 30,000 pieces of bangus.

The office of the provincial agriculturist in Lingayen were said the firm, one of the biggest fish cage operators in Pangasinan, owns nearly 64 fish cages around the Cobcoban Island.

"The slashing may have taken place Wednesday night because the fish cage caretaker discovered it at about 6:30 a.m. the following day," Dizon said.

It was the first known case of slashing of fish cages in the province, said Hayley Simeon, chief of the National Fisheries Research and Development Center here.

She said the fish cages could have been easily slashed because these were open from the top each. Rudolf Cor-Ermac, Inquirer Northern Luzon

FARMING in the Cordillera, site modern and traditional way of farming blend.

WB exec satisfied with antipoverty plans

By Vicente Libo
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A WORLD Bank official lauded the people behind the implementation of the government's antipoverty projects in Eastern Visayas for a job well done.

"I can say that the implementation of the Kalahi-CIDSS (the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services) program here is moving ahead very well, indeed," said Andrew Parker, leader of the WB task force for Kalahi-CIDSS in the Philippines.

Parker said the WB had provided $3.90 million for the Kalahi-CIDSS program in the country, with the Philippine government, local government units and beneficiary-communities providing counterpart funds.

In Eastern Visayas alone, more than P115 million have been disbursed to project programs in 28 municipalities in the region since the Kalahi-CIDSS project implementation started here in 2003. The Kalahi-CIDSS program aims to empower communities, to increase local governance and to reduce poverty.

Parker lauded local chief executives in Eastern Visayas with projects in their areas for their strong support to the Kalahi-CIDSS, a PDS-funded component of the government.

The local government has also provided counterpart funds of up to 10 percent of the total project cost, he added.

300 activists mark martial law anniversary

By Jeanne Aning and Tina G. Santos

SOME 300 ACTIVISTS SYMBOLIC several generations converged at the foot of the Dove/Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) bridge near Malacañang yesterday morning to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the dictator Marcos' declaration of martial law.

The activists, including members of the militant umbrella group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) and Kampanyan demanded justice for the victims of the Marcos dictatorship and of the Arroyo administration.

218 political prisoners

They particularly called for the release of 218 political prisoners, 158 of whom were arrested under the current administration, according to Selda.

"The Arroyo regime has gained the sole distinction of being the regime (true or to the Marcos dictatorship in terms of its human rights record, corruption and foreign policy," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

He added: "The Arroyo regime is the lone arrangement that we should never allow a return to the dictatorship, no matter what the pretext is."

The activists rated a like-size replica of a jail cell to symbolize the plight of the political prisoners.

Members of Bayan affiliates, such as Gabriela, Anakpawis, Alliance Mayo Uno, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Kabataan Makabayan, carried placards and streamers denouncing human rights violations, corruption and anomalies.

Upon reaching the bridge, which was barricaded by barbed wire and blocked by a police force, the activists laid a wreath at the foot of the monument of Chino Roces, the publisher of the pro-martial law Manila Times who was imprisoned by the Marcos regime, as well as pictures of those who disappeared during the martial law regime and those murdered and detained since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power in 2001.

"Despite [the Arroyo administration's] claims of an improving human rights climate, hundreds of victims are still being denied justice. Scores of activists are unconvicted in jails all over the country, a grim reminder that the 'years of martial rule are still here,'" Reyes said.

He cited the case of detained peasant leader Randall Echanis, who was imprisoned during martial law and is now facing murder charges under the Arroyo administration, Eduardo Serapio in detention since January.

The extension of martial law, laid by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, exactly from Leganes Street across Bicutan Avenue while the younger activists marched from the Ram Bar Church in Sampaloc.

Reyes said anxious troops from the Manila Police District tried to block the activists at the corner of Recto.

He said they were allowed to hold a program in the area only after they consented to a no-rally zone during weekdays—after protesting a permit from the city government.

Reyes said four of a return to "martial law by any name" was not unfounded.

"We see the desperation of the regime to stay in power at all costs. We see the unwarranted attacks on the freedom of assembly of the Filipino people in the entrenchment. We see the continued backing of the United States for an unpopular regime," he said, adding:

"The only thing that stands in their way is the people. Our people have learned enough from Marcos and they will never allow such a monstrosity to return. Our people will resist."

Still feeling it

On Friday more than 50 black-clad members of the group Kaisahan flocked to Plaza Miranda to Quiapo, Manila.

"Offenses against the people continue to be observed despite the lifting of martial law. Martial law has been dead for a long time and yet we continue to feel martial law," the group said.

Nation's journey told in Cory, the musical

By Tarra Quismundo

RETOLD THROUGH ONE woman's life, a nation's journey to regain what was lost will come alive on stage.

Democracy won Corazon Aquino's rise to the presidency will be recounted in a new home musical to be presented in November—"a gift from the Filipino people" to the ailing former head of state who took power on the wings of the February 1986 people power revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

"Cory," the musical, is a tribute to the wisdom of the martyred Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. as seen her coping time in her life.

"We'll see a humanized Cory. We'll see an emotional Cory, an angry Cory, a happy Cory, and, of course, the President that we know who is poised and beautiful," said Iza Calzado, who plays the starring role.

Said Sherwin Sison, the actor chosen to play Ninoy. "We have a tendency of placing [the couple] on a pedestal, that they are bigger than life. After studying Ninoy, I learned that he tried to make a better life for all of us. But besides Ninoy as a hero, we will also see Ninoy as a person."

Good governance

Producer and songwriter Lucille Pimentel, wife of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, said the thought of bringing Aquino with a play up on learning that the admired leader was battling colon cancer.

"But she has everything. So I thought, what would be a good gift for her? It's a gift, and you don't ask permission to give a gift," Pimentel told the Inquirer when the musical was launched in Quezon City on Tuesday.

"The value of good governance will shine through in this play because, in recalling the abuses of the dictator, it happened because it was allowed to happen by the resistance. So it's a warning also that if you don't appreciate what you have and you don't use that value, then you'll tend to lose it," she said.

In creating art out of history, scriptwriter and director Nestor Torre chose to focus on Aquino's access to the presidency because he believes it was "the apex" of her life.

"I saw the heart of the character, the particular mission that was meant for her to become President," said Torre, a columnist of Inquirer Entertainment.

Added Pimentel: "It's about her life from the beginning until she became President. We never meant on the [mid-]life years and we ended up in her assassination to the presidency because [it] like to capture the time when we as a people were fighting for something we believed in—democracy. Freedom—and I have our weekend together, how we saved, freed."

Chosen

One of the 19 featured songs depicts the moment when Aquino declared with herself to run for office. And the chosen for her to lead the nation, Pimentel said.

The song "Sino Ako?" speaks about Aquino's conversation with God as she sought the wisdom to make a decision. It ends with her submission to the divine will and her vows to serve the people.

"She said . . . dammit. She was chosen to be an instrument, an agent of change, for the greater good of the country, to do what God wanted her to do—to restore democracy," said Pimentel, a self-taught composer who has staged six plays with religious and historical themes.

She expressed the hope that the musical would remind the nation of a struggle not too long ago so they would "begin to check themselves if we are beginning to feel the way we felt before."

'Sometimes you forget'

"I want them to remember to love our country more, because sometimes you forget ... Each does, we have our freedom, so we begin to look for it," Pimentel said.

"Now that we are experiencing freedom, we don't seem to realize that freedom is not only the freedom to move around and say anything. Freedom really is the application of the rule of law to everyone," she said.

To get into their roles, actors Alvarez and Sison have been reading books and studying video materials on the Aquino couple.

"It's a work in progress," Alvarez said.

Rehearsals are now on the third month, Pimentel said.

The musical is scheduled to make its debut on Nov. 28, with the play's inspiration among the invited VIPs.

The show will run at the Metropolitan Theater until Dec. 1, but January play dates are being arranged, Pimentel said.

THE LEAD STARS Iza Alvarez and Sherwin Sison will "humanize" the historic and heroic roles of their principals in "Cory"

Hall of remembrance . . .

From page A1

went to the countryside to help tend to the sick, died from a shot in the back in Butuan on Jan. 22, 1977. She was 19.

Ani Edna Alcantara and the brothers Roma-to and Armando Palabay, 22 and 21, both UP students who organized anti-Marcos campaigns in their home province of La Union, and who were killed separately by military and paramilitary units.

"It's time many of the martyrs were the young ones," said museum director Carolina "Bobbit" Malay. "So Philippine independent, many of our heroes were in their teens."

Opened in February on the year-old Bantayog ng mga Bayani Museum, the Hall of Remembrance helps flesh out the more than 170 martyrs (those who disappeared and died before 1986) and heroes (those who survived beyond 1986) of martial law and puts them between the pages of history.

In the gallery, the visitor gets acquainted with the youth, educators, farmers, activists, artists and public servants who resisted the dictatorship through black and white photos and brief profiles mounted on floor-to-ceiling panels.

Until February, people knew most of them only by their names engraved on the black granite Wall of Remembrance beneath the 15-foot bronze sculpture inside the Bantayog Memorial Center in Quezon City.

Most are smiling in their palm-sized pictures, but the accompanying vignettes inform the visitor of their violent end.

"I intended to give them a face, relate more their experience, and how they died," said Bibiano "Bel" Imperial, who curated the exhibit as part of the requirements for his master's degree in cultural heritage at the University of Santo Tomas.

But inspiration was the Holocaust Museum in the United States.

In the shadow into current into the permanent personalities who stood up to President Ferdinand Marcos from the time he declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, until he was toppled by a bloodless people's revolt in February 1986.

They were the likes of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Jaime Cardinal Sin, Leonidas Tolentino, publishers Joaquin Roces and Jose Burgos Jr., poets Bienvenido Lumbera, and activist lawyers Jose Mejenes and Felipe Jopson, among others.

How it started

Ilupapo, 32, and the museum staff rearranged the exhibit in a small room on the second floor of the Ins. Jovito Salonga Building to mark the anniversary of the February 1986 "people's revolt."

The museum decided to make it permanent, for obvious reasons.

("That is very interesting, and very informative," National Transmission Corp. employee Jeanette Antonio remarked on her first visit to the gallery on Thursday morning.)

The museum, which opened in August 2007, keeps some files of pictures and personal data of only a number of the heroes and martyrs. Ilupapo found these insufficient and decided to write letters to the families, requesting materials about their sons and daughters.

Then, between January and February, greater details and pictures trickled from yellowed and family albums, as well as mementoes, such as letters, books, and even clothes, arrived at the museum by mail or personal delivery.

"What made it tough was the dearth of materials," Ilupapo said on the phone 911 day morning from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila, where she teaches interior design. (She holds a degree in interior design from UST.)

"[But] the families were very happy to share the materials because they wanted their children to be remembered, too," she said.

Rare pictures

With a P70,000 budget from the museum, Ilupapo scanned the pictures and reduced each to a standard size of 4 cm x 6 cm, and wrote the profiles based on museum files and recollections of the living family members.

Still, one would notice that some faded pictures. Malay said that was hardly surprising because families then would hide pictures of their children who were on the military's "wanted list" but threw away incriminating evidence.

"The military would come barging into your house to ask for pictures of your children who are involved in the resistance. Many families burned and disposed of their children's pictures. What we have here are rare pictures," she said.

Illustrative of the place of some mementoes' pictures, as in the case of Mach-ing Dela, a suspected Balingo elder who was shot dead by government agents on April 24, 2000, after fiercely opposing the Chico dam that threatened to inundate homes, farmlands, orchards and graveyards in the Cordillera.

In response to Ilupapo's request, some families have sent in no more than photos of their children's pictures but also personal items.

The family of Fr. Rito Valeria Jr., 1972, brought his favorite striped T-shirt; the one he was wearing when he and community organizers Benita Fernandez and Soledad Salvador were beheaded by soldiers in Bukon, Bongabon, on Aug. 24, 1985. Their heads were found recently and buried in the village.

Valeria was then 33.

His shirt, washed clean of the bloodstains, and some letters of activists to their families are on display in a glass case in the middle of the gallery.

There is also the compilation of "propaganda songs" recorded by student activist Edmund Garcia before his disappearance, and a translation of poems by Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, which one can listen to on an MP3 player installed at the gallery entrance.

"It was a learning experience," said Ilupapo, who was born in 1976 and grew up in Marikina, Manila, in a time of midnight curfew.

"I came to know our heroes, especially the students who were willing to sacrifice their lives to right wrongs for the good of our country," she said.

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NEWS

They, too, proposed budget insertions

But Pimentel, Gordon, Aquino insist there was nothing wrong with it

PIMENTEL

GORDON

AQUINO

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WITH THE PROPRIETY OF BUDGET insertions now in the spotlight, more senators have admitted proposing their own amendments in the 2008 national budget but insisted that there was nothing wrong with this practice.

In a text message, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. admitted he proposed the amendment giving funds to build facilities for the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance.

Sen. Richard Gordon also admitted proposing a P100-million fund for an airport in Puerto Galera to allow residents to transport their goods.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III also admitted proposing at least eight amendments, seven of them concerned with budget realignments. But he said only one proposal—clarifying the name of a road project in Cavite—was approved.

Pimentel, Gordon and Aquino were among the eight senators who signed a resolution asking the Senate to probe the allegations of Sen. Panfilo Lacson linking Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. to an alleged P200-million double allocation for a 32-road extension project.

Lacson had questioned the propriety of Villar's request for additional funding for the road project and warned that conflict-of-interest issues may arise. In a privilege speech last week, he also pointed out that the Senate had inserted projects worth P4 billion in the 2008 national budget.

Lacson's speech sparked an exchange of fourth salvos among the senators, who had lined up to rise to Lacson's call to interrogate Villar.

Villar had admitted nothing the request he made funds for the road project, but insisted that his family's businesses had nothing to gain from the projects. The controversial road project would also relocate scores of his constituents in Pamplona.

'Done in secret'

When sought for comment on their own proposed insertions, Pimentel said insertions are only bad if "done in secret and for private gain."

"All my amendments were open and not hidden. And were for a public purpose. Why don't you ask Sen. Enrile's committee?" Pimentel said.

Enrile, the committee of finance chair, insisted the details of the more than P1 billion amendments he had approved, most of which were intended for government agencies, hospitals and schools. But he said that it would be up to the other senators to publicly disclose those they sponsored.

Sen. Pia Cayetano earlier admitted the had proposed amendments worth P2,815 billion for the Department of Health but that only P671 million was included in the final budget.

Sen. Miriam Defensor, who has proposed a bill to criminalize "self-serving appropriations or conflict of interest appropriations," also admitted proposing P650 million worth of amendments of which only P110 million for two government agencies and for the Manila Cavite Road was approved.

Published online

Recto said that while he felt it possible, he would also "insist that all amendments, insertions, realignments and changes in the budget be published online, indicating the proponent of each change."

Sen. Ricardo Recidoro also said he supported additional funding for the Philippine Monoplectrus, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the Pangasinan State University but these were "not entirely accepted."

Aplus METRO
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MARIANO Marcos High School principal Olimpiada Cunilo discusses the exhibit with students.

LOOKING BACK

A travelling photo exhibit shows students why Manila is a city to love

By Elaine Fenix-Bayley
Contributor

FOR SOME MANILEños—local officials, students and teachers, mostly—Manila has indeed become for each of them "my city" especially after viewing a photo exhibit now making the rounds of the city's public high schools.

A Museo Pambata concept, with support from the Museo ng Maynila and the city government, the exhibit titled "The Manila I Love" seeks to promote an appreciation of one's roots, particularly among those living, studying and working in the city.

"We wanted to show the youth **what makes a good leader, why** they should love their country, particularly their city," said Joseph de Vera, exhibits head of Museo Pambata Foundation Inc. "To make the exhibit more relevant, we are bringing it around by district to public high schools so students will also know their leaders, whom to approach, whom to seek help from."

The exhibit, launched on June 16, the city's foundation day, is unique because it views Manila through the eyes of its government officials who tie their favorite places in the city show photos taken from their private collection and share an anecdote or two about why a particular spot means so much to them.

Mayor Alfredo Lim, for example, holds a special affection for Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, which he considers his "second home" since he was a boxer in the 1950s.

For 30-year-old Hazel Ureña Lim, a fourth year student who saw the exhibit, this was interesting since she discovered when Lim had spent his childhood.

"This makes history for me more relevant," said Hazel. "I also found out that there are many nice places in Manila like Manila Bay and Quiapo Church just by looking at these photos. I remember that in my first year of high school, I usually saw a lot of garbage floating on Manila Bay. **Maganda pala ang lugar na ito** (This place is really nice)."

Some even flew from the city's six districts listed their favorite haunts in Rizal Park, Baywalk, Manila City Hall, Quiapo and Intramuros. These places, they said, pose them a different "high" since **these served as focal reminders of** their growing up years.

Councilor Joy A. Belmonte (District 2), for instance, said the flag pole at the Manila City Hall holds **fond memories for her.** "When I was still a kid, I kept looking at **the flagpole and wished that I** would one day become one of those working at the City Hall of Manila. For me, the height of the flagpole mirrored my lofty ambitions," she narrated.

For Councilor Sheila Lacuna Pangan (District 4) and Erick Ian G. Nieva (District 3), the Manila City Hall not only symbolizes the power wielded by the city government, it likewise "epitomizes the opportunity in service ahead."

Nonnatus Gellegani, 15, the student government president of Mariano Marcos High School, said viewing the exhibit **has made him very interested in** finding out more about the city.

"I'm now really interested in knowing everything about Binondo and the whole of Manila. As a citizen of Manila, I would like to know its history so that we can preserve our heritage. **Maybe we can go back in the** previous Manila that was a complete yet a prosperous place in terms of culture and heritage."

"The Manila I love" interactive exhibition school tour is still ongoing. It has been to Emilio Jacinto High School, Tomas Pinpin High School, Aurelio High School, Lakandula High School, Mariano Marcos High School and the Emilio Aguinaldo Integrated School. Its last stop for this month is E. Rodriguez Vocational School.

Museo Pambata is located on Roxas Boulevard corner Arnaiz Drive, Manila, with telephone numbers 5231797 to 98. E-mail: exhibits@museopambata.org; website: www.museopambata.org for more information.

"If STUDENTS cannot get to a museum outside, let the outside go to the students," said DepEd history teacher Dolores Hernandez.

Multi-awarded ultimate frisbee player says the play's the thing

By Jeannette I. Andrade

HUBERTH EDZYAN GUERRERO believes his love of the game is what has sustained Dalne in all the competitions that have taken him around the world.

Guerrero, 23, an ultimate frisbee player, has been making a name for himself in the international frisbee scene.

In August, he and the other 39 players of Team Pilipinas participated in the Ultimate Frisbee **Singapore Open** where they won six against 23 teams from Asia, finishing a strong second.

In December, Team Pilipinas joined the 1st World Championships Beach Ultimate in Murcia, Spain, where they were pitted against 200 other frisbee players from 18 other countries.

The team did the Philippines proud, coming in second in the open division after losing by one point to Australia. Guerrero was named the Beach Ultimate Lowers Association's Most Valuable Player and Most Assists awards.

"It is a win-win. What's good about **the game is [that] it is non-offending and** calls are made on your own. That preserves the integrity of the game and its players," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

Ultimate frisbee is often described as a mixture of American football and basketball. Two sets of five-man teams compete against each other for 45 minutes. The objective is to throw **the frisbee, a flying disc, to the end zone.**

The game has simple rules: No running, **no display of aggression or belligerent** behavior and deliberate obstruction against the spirit of **the game. Also, no walk-**ing with the disc. A player is allowed to hold the frisbee for only 10 seconds after which he has to throw the disc to a teammate.

There are no judges and the players are **left to decide contentious issues.**

Sports climbing is another passion that the Quezon City-born and bred Guerrero wants to excel in, having competed in the **Asian Il Games in Kuala Lumpur,** Malaysia, in 2004 and the following year in Seoul, Korea, where he finished 11th place.

Guerrero said he immerses **himself in sports climbing and** ultimate frisbee because of the challenge they offer. "They are very different because in these games, you compete more with yourself than with other people," he said.

He first got into the games when he joined the University of the Philippines Mountaineers as a student in the College of Human Kinetics. He almost gave up sports climbing when he fractured his arm in a fall in 2003.

"I was in a hospital and I was thinking of giving it up but I guess I just love the game," he explained.

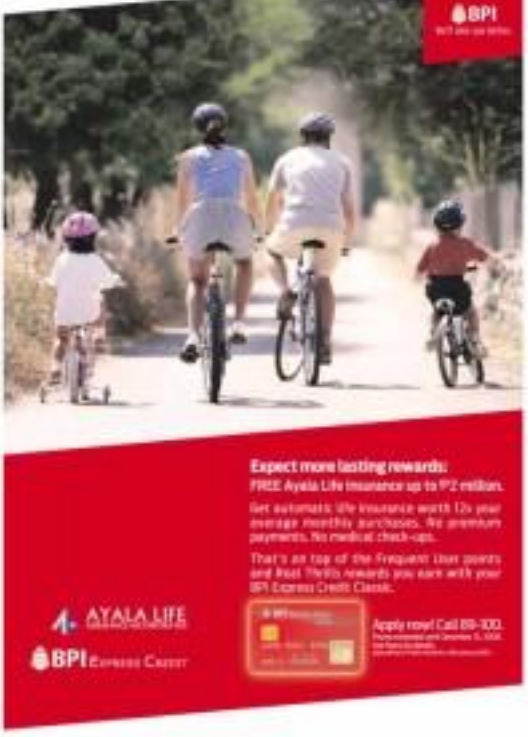
His fellow mountaineers then introduced him to ultimate frisbee.

"It was a running game and I immediately got into it," he said. Guerrero has made a career out of teaching both sports, taking coaching jobs in different universities, including UP.

He said the lessons they the games have given him a fresh outlook and his participation in both local and international competitions are simply for the spirit and enjoyment of the game.

"Since I just play and if I compete, I only compete with myself," Guerrero said.

HUBERTH Edzyan Guerrero: "Turning out to be quite a catch in the sport of ultimate frisbee.



"FILIPINO seamen are at greater risk of being kidnapped or held hostage by pirates considering their huge number. Almost a third of seafaring ships are owned by Filipinos."
ESTEBAN CONDINO JR.,
September, 2008

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Ex-PC soldier finds peace in Italy

Narciso Abarintos braved a new life in search of a decent wage

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO ITALY AS AN overseas worker two decades ago, Narciso Abarintos was taken aback by the alien culture—particularly the food.

"My first thought was, how could anybody eat this, this is food for cows?" Abarintos, a former Philippine Constabulary soldier, recalled with a laugh. He was referring to the insides (colon), a common sight on the Italian table.

But the 59-year-old native of Boston, Batangas, who graduated by necessity as a driver for Labor Attaché Manuel Imbong at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Rome, Italy, said he adjusted to the change quickly.

"I realized that the Italians are somewhat more classy and sensible," Abarintos, fondly called Mang Narcing, said in Filipino.

Abarintos left the Philippines in 1986 to follow his wife Rosalinda, a domestic helper, in Italy.

Soldier's meager salary

He disclosed that his meager salary as a member of the PC in the early 1980s forced him to consider joining his wife abroad.

"My monthly pay of P700 and subsistence allowance of P60 was too small to raise a family," Abarintos said. He wanted his two sons to get a good education.

He said his wife then worked as household helpers in Rome, doing all sorts of housework for their Italian employers.

"Back then there were only a few Filipinos in Italy, only about 800 in Rome," Abarintos said.

He added that the huge salary from working as domestic helpers may have attracted more Filipinos to the southern European country.

OFW's large salary

"Just setting for the elderly could mean a monthly salary of 1,000 to 1,400 euros [about P67,000 to P94,000 at the current exchange of P1 to €0.43 rate]," Abarintos said, adding that overseas Filipino workers in Italy can earn as much as 1,500 euros (about P.€3,000) a month as domestic helpers.

Staying in the house of the employer means big savings for an OFW because of minimal expenses.

"There are also many extra benefits for household workers, including a bonus at the end of each year which is equivalent to four times one's monthly pay," Abarintos said.

He further testified that in Italy, saying that even medical expenses were cut a problem for them, as they could get free check-ups and medication in local hospitals.

"OFWs can really save a lot of money here, as long as they do not spend a lot on unnecessary things," Abarintos said.

He added that one could easily leave a good time in Italy without spending too much.

"A bus ticket, which could give me an unlimited ride for 75 minutes, is enough to amuse me," Abarintos said with a grin.

"We live in a house with two other families and we split the 1,300 euro rent (about P87,500) with them," Abarintos said.

Other Filipinos in Italy also find ways to spend their free time without touching their salaries, which they send home to their families in the Philippines.

Tong-its on the piazza

Most of them, according to Abarintos, play tong-its in local card parties in the margins of the town plaza on their days off, which usually fall on Thursdays and Sundays.

"Birthdays and weddings are wonderful occasions for OFWs, who take advantage of their special days to bond with one another," Abarintos said.

But he added that many Filipinos also choose to work on their days off to earn cash. As overly industrious OFW could earn as much as 20 euros (P1,344) for half a day's work and 50 euros (about P3,360) for working on a Sunday.

Going home

However, Abarintos said that despite their big salaries, going home is still a good reason for OFWs to go home.

MANG NARCING, as Abarintos is called, poses with fellow OFW Jessie Samson

"I make it a point to go back to the Philippines every year," he said, adding that he plans to retire in Batangas.

"Italy has been very good to me all these years, but the Philippines will always be my home," Abarintos said.

Ex-NPA finds progress in Dubai

Rosendo Sanchez came down from the hills of Davao and made it big as an engineer overseas

REBEL-TURNED-ENTREPRENEUR: Rosendo Sanchez (left) with associates in Dubai.

By Bronze Cass

LIKE MANY STUDENT ACTIVISTS during the martial law years, Rosendo Sanchez joined the rural latter.

A cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines in 1979, he topped the mechanical engineering board exams two years later. He immediately got a good job as a junior engineer of Shell Philippines, one of the biggest oil companies in the country. But he quit his promising job and heeded what he felt was the call of the times.

He found himself with the communist New People's Army in the mountains of Davao and Davao del Sur, fighting the revolutionary war of life.

He spent a memorable nine long years with the leftist group.

He truly believed its cause. On top of everything, the guerilla movement helped him find his life partner, Maggie, who was a social worker teaching in a local barrio school in Davao.

It was love made in the mountains, he cracked quietly.

Years later, they had their brethren. They built a makeshift house in Davao, Maggie's hometown, and started a simple family life while he was still active with the rebel movement.

But the setup didn't work well for them. Rosendo had to regularly attend to his duties in the mountains.

"I already had two sons who I had to feed and send them to elementary schools. I needed money badly, having no house and permanent address in 1981."

After a thorough assessment, he decided to call it quits.

"They understood. It was a bittersweet goodbye to the movement I dearly loved."

A new struggle in Brunei

He flew back to Manila in 1981 and looked for a job.

"I literally scrambled to relearn the new methods and new practices of engineering. Nine years in the bounded mountains of Isabela and Davao is no joke."

With sheer determination, he reviewed and brushed up on his lessons.

He soon was hired as a project engineer in Bandar, Brunei, and a year later was able to buy a lot in Davao. From then on, he was able to take his family to Brunei. He quickly got regular promotions and benefits.

But after nine years, he was homesick. He also didn't like the education his three children were getting in Brunei.

Sanchez said his family came home in 2000. The next year he set up his own company.

New challenge in Dubai

In 2005, he was contacted for the Dubai project and left in 2006 for a year, while still overseeing RDS Engineering (technologies and Billionaire Consulting Engineers).

Sanchez remembers he had a bad start.

"Who's standing in front?" he had asked loudly as he neared his interviewers room.

In the cramped office a stern-looking Arab man, right between his fingers, was timed by his comment. The man, he soon found out, was to be his employer at the Burj Dubai Tower.

Obviously, (the remark) irked him big time. He said I sounded arrogant.

"Apprehensive as he was about my attitude, I was still hired, but was treated as a second class worker," Sanchez told of his most memorable incident as he started work in Dubai.

Earning employer's trust

Though employed as a senior design manager, he was made to sit with the rank and file employees.

He remembers that for a few months, his every movement was checked and monitored. His work was continuously questioned.

"They were at first doubtful of my competence since discovered I was doing an excellent job," said Sanchez.

"It helped that in UP we were taught American and international standards. Employers commended me for that and I was given more assignments and encouraged to take major projects."

He soon earned their trust and was moved to a more comfortable office duly accorded a senior engineer.

Sanchez headed the High-Mast Aggregate Cameras (HMAC) Department of the Burj Dubai Tower, the tallest high-rise structure in the world in 2008.

His own companies

At retirement's end, he came home in 2007 to attend to his own companies, the RDS Engineering Technologies and the Billionaires Consulting Engineers, which he co-owns with brother Nelly, a structural engineer.

The two companies, set up in 2000 and based at the Mega Plaza Tower in Ortigas, are focused on project designs and consultancy.

Sanchez says that despite being relatively new to the industry, his companies have already obtained big commissioned projects locally and abroad. His clients include Ram's Foods Inc., Seven Heroes, Shell Philippines, San Miguel Corporation, Ayala Philippines, the Fort Bonifacio Stopover project, various hotels, malls, hospitals and food stores nationwide.

"All these blessings didn't just land in my lap," he said.

"I had to fight an uphill battle."

"Everything is God's gift," said Sanchez now 50 and himself an employer supervising about 20 employees.

While in the past his wife Magie taught in barrio schools and churches, she now owns her own school in Batangas.

An activist at heart

In small ways, Sanchez helps send a few students to school through his companies. Four high school graduates have been sent to technical and HVAC training to possible employment in his companies.

While three are still native and job offers abroad for Sanchez, he said he would like to settle here.

"But with the spiraling cost of commodities, I may consider it again," he added.

Nokors restoring nuke plant earlier blasted

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA SAID on Friday it was working on restarting its nuclear plant and dismissed the prospect of being removed from a US terrorism blacklist in return for a disarmament deal.

The North said it had begun work to rebuild the Soviet-era Yongbyon nuclear plant, which made bomb-grade plutonium. The plant previously was being taken apart under a much delayed disarmament-for-aid deal it reached with five countries, including the United States.

"The DPRK [North Korean] clearly wishes to be delisted as a 'state sponsor of terrorism' not expecting such a thing to happen," the North's official KCNA news agency quoted a foreign ministry spokesperson as saying.

Work has been under way to restore Yongbyon's nuclear facilities "to their original state," the spokesperson said.

In Washington, the United States reacted calmly to the announcement, saying North Korea had not yet made the plant operational.

"They have not got to that point yet. We would urge them not to get to that point," state department spokesperson Sean McCormack said when asked about South Korea's statement.

He urged Pyongyang to agree to a mechanism to verify the claims that it made about the extent of its nuclear program.

North Korea, which exploded a nuclear device about two years ago, began to dismantle Yongbyon in early November as called for in the deal it struck with China, the United States, Japan, Russia and South Korea.

Last month, North Korea said it planned to restart Yongbyon because it was angry at Washington for not taking it off its terrorism blacklist. In early September, it made minor but initial moves to restart the plant, US officials said.

New US administration

Washington has said it will remove Pyongyang from the list once it allows inspectors to verify claims it made about its nuclear arms production. Once removed, the North can better tap into international finance and expand its meager trade.

Analysts here said the North might be trying to pressure the outgoing Bush administration so it looks for diplomatic successes to bolster its legacy. The North might also be thinking it can seek a better deal under a new US president.

McCormack suggested any such thinking could be wrong.

"Look, you know, I don't know who the next president, who the next secretary of state is going to be, but I would wager that they're not going to get a much different deal from the next administration as they're getting from this administration," he said.

North Korea remains on another US blacklist—it was one of eight countries that the state department said on Friday had engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom during the past year. The others are Myanmar, China, Iran, Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan.

"North Korea remains among the world's most egregious violators of religious freedom. The cult of personality surrounding the ruling family remains an important ideological underpinning of the regime, as Christ-revering remains of a state religion," said John Hanford, the US ambassador at large for international religious freedom.

He said between 150,000 and 200,000 people are believed to be held in political prison camps in North Korea, some for religious reasons. North Korea has been on the list since 2001; officials' countries can be subject to US sanctions.

In Vienna, diplomats said North Korea had not notified the International Atomic Energy Agency of its plans to reactivate Yongbyon. IAEA monitors have been at Yongbyon since mid-2007 and seals and cameras were installed in the complex to verify the shutdown process.

Other diplomats said North Korea removed some equipment in Yongbyon, but one said "North Korea had unnecessarily dismantled the complex and it would be a huge endeavor to get it going again, requiring several months at least."

A South Korean official familiar with the talks said what has stood among the obstacles to negotiations but it did not mean Pyongyang was about to quit the disarmament process for good.

McCormack said the United States would also "remain engaged" with the North Koreans and would not give up on the six-nation process that led to the disarmament-for-aid deal.

The South Korean official said the North knows aid and disablement are linked. Foreign-starved North Korea has been receiving partial shipments of 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil for participating, program it has made under the deal.

Friday's announcement came after US and South Korean officials said last week that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il may have suffered a stroke, raising questions about succession and who controls its nuclear arsenal. *Reuters*

NORTH KOREAN schoolgirls run the marathon in front of Juche Tower in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008.

New Thai PM starts talks with group of protesters

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S GOVERNMENT, seeking to ease a political standoff that has roiled the country for weeks, has initiated talks with the protest group occupying the prime minister's office complex.

"We are all Thais . . . (I) don't bear any grudge against anyone because of our differences," newly elected Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat said Friday. "The differences can be settled not through a dialogue."

Somchai, 63, succeeded Samak Sundaravej, whose controversial TV cooking show was forced from office by a court in a conflict of interest case not directly related to the dispute.

Samak was targeted because he was accused of being a puppet of disgraced former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who is facing several corruption cases but has gone into exile in Britain. Thaksin was ousted by a military coup two years ago.

Somchai has also had a conciliatory tone toward the protesters, a contrast to the belligerent stance of Samak, who indicated he would not lose so much ruler.

The new leader has appealed for army and reservist action to defend Thailand's deep political divide, which began when antigovernment protesters took to the streets in 2006 to demand Thaksin's resignation and paved the way for the Sept. 19 military coup that ousted him later that year.

On Friday evening, thousands of government supporters held a rally to mark the second anniversary of the coup.

The rally was held amid tight security in a field about one kilometer away from the antigovernment protest site.

The last time government supporters and opponents held competing rallies, on Aug. 2, the two sides chased each other through the streets with sticks and slingshots and other makeshift weapons. One person was killed and dozens injured. *AP*

THAI Buddhist monks wait for offerings early Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, near Government House in Bangkok, Thailand. The country's government, seeking to ease a political standoff that has roiled the country for weeks, has initiated talks with the protest group occupying the prime minister's office complex. *AP*

Weathermen on monster storms: More are coming

MIAMI—THE 10 TROPICAL storms and hurricanes that ripped through the Atlantic and Caribbean during this busy hurricane season ravaged Haiti, Cuba and the US Gulf coast, and conditions are now ripe for more.

Residents of the Atlantic-Caribbean danger zone should not let down their guard, despite a brief lull in the action following Tropical Storm Josephine's demise two weeks ago and Hurricane Ike's strike on the Texas coast, experts said.

"Conditions are still favorable for hurricanes. People really need to stay on their toes," said Gerry Bell, the lead hurricane season forecaster for the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Forecasters had predicted the season, which runs through Nov. 30, could produce up to 18 cyclones, and the warm sea temperatures, low wind shear and other factors that contribute to the formation of hurricanes are still in place.

Denver in the Caribbean and Atlantic is warmer than usual by 0.5 to 1.5 degree Celsius, Bell said. Hurricanes feed on warm sea water.

Further out of cooler waters, drawn from the depths by the passage of powerful hurricanes like Ike and Gustav, have appeared around Cuba and to the south of Mexico, but they are not likely to have a big impact on future storms.

Wind shear, which is the difference in wind speeds at different levels of the atmosphere and which can disrupt nascent hurricanes, is relatively low.

El Niño, the eastern Pacific ocean water phenomenon that can dampen Atlantic storm formation, has not developed. Normal El Niño conditions are expected for the rest of the season, experts said.

Tough year

"Through Oct. 15th I would say let my guard down on the [10] storms unformed at all," AccuWeather Executive Joe Bastardi said, predicting southeast Texas to five storms.

"Between the 25th [of September] and 15th of October the Caribbean will light up, but first, something may form off the Carolinas," he said.

Six consecutive Atlantic tropical storms and hurricanes hit the United States from late July to mid-September, causing billions of dollars in damage. Four in a row swamped Haiti, killing hundreds of people.

Gustav and Ike crushed Cuba before heading off to the US Gulf Coast, where they rampaged through oil and gas fields.

As the season just after the midpoint peak of the six-month season, there is no surprise to 2008, the all-time record number will fit storms, which means a repeat of more names and had to resort to the Greek alphabet. That year spawned Hurricane Wilma, which is the strongest on record.

On Sept. 10 of 2005, "Rita" formed. It was the 17th storm of the season and eventually became a 300 kph monster, one of the strongest hurricanes in history.

But not even in 2005 did six storms in a row hit the United States.

In fact, the US National Hurricane Center says that so far it has not found another year since records began in 1851 in which the United States was hit by six tropical cyclones in a row, but it was still digging through the data.

The tendency to target US shores is partly due to the atmospheric conditions that steer hurricanes. In some years, many of the storms that charge across the ocean eventually curve harmlessly northward without reaching the United States.

"We've had an extensive area of high pressure to the middle and upper atmosphere that has helped to steer the hurricanes away or lower latitudes," Bell said. "They have not recurved into the Atlantic." *Reuters*

A SIGN reading "Texas Don't Steal What We Have Left," makes a plea to would-be looters in front of a hurricane-damaged beach front home in Seabrook, Texas, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008. *AP*

150 Muslims fired from meat plant

OMAHA, NEBRASKA—ABOUT 150 Muslims were fired from a Nebraska meatpacking plant that has been embroiled in a prayer dispute, a Somali-American leader said Friday.

Mohamed Bage, who leads the Omaha Somali-American Community Organization, said 50 workers were thrown out after an altercation late Thursday. He says others they tried to return to their shift Friday, they were fired, along with 70 others.

Police said were called to the plant in Grand Island late Thursday amid reports of a fight or riot. But when officers arrived, the situation had calmed, said police chief Steve Lamken.

Muslim workers have been asking for accommodations with break times to allow prayer at sunset. The issue led to walkouts this week—not only from Muslims but from non-Muslims who protested such accommodations as preferential treatment.

JBS Swift & Co. officials have not returned repeated calls seeking comment. Officials did not refer to any accusations in a statement released Friday but said problems at the plant were over people walking off the job without proper authorization, not about religion.

The company said employees can practice their religion as long as they don't violate their contract or disrupt operations.

Dan Hoppes, president of Local 22 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, described what happened Thursday night differently than Hage did. He said that according to management and employees, 60 to 80 people quit late Thursday after refusing the prayer issue and creating a commotion.

Hoppes said supervisors had told the workers to go back to work or leave and they left. Workers who walked off the job Monday and Tuesday to protest had to have known their leaving again would result in their termination, he said. They were not a prayer system, and enough absences or other concerns violations result in firing.

The plant employs about 2,300 people, not counting management, about a fifth of them are Muslim, mostly of Somali background.

Hoppes said he didn't know what happened Friday, but that human resources representatives were posted at employee entrances to talk to workers. *AP*

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

A CHINESE BABY cries as it gets treatment for kidney stones brought on by contaminated milk. AFP

Milk poisoning spreads; Singapore bans imports

BEIJING—SINGAPORE BANNED ALL DAIRY IMPORTS FROM China on Friday and the European Union demanded answers from Beijing on the baby formula scandal that has left thousands of infants ill across China spread to liquid milk.

A government food quality watchdog in China said nearly 10 percent of milk and drinking yoghurt samples from three major dairy companies were contaminated with potentially deadly melamine.

Panicked parents have crowded hospitals and demanded redress since officials and the Sanlu Group, China's biggest maker of infant milk powder, said last week that babies were sick with kidney stones and complications after drinking town milk powder.

At the latest count, 6,244 children have become ill. Four have died and 158 are suffering "acute kidney failure."

The role of sick children is overwhelming some doctors, the official Xinhua agency said, quoting a man who was turned away by hospitals in his hometown.

Li Chaoshan, whose 9-month-old son has a kidney stone (1.5 centimeters in diameter), rushed to the capital instead but was also rejected as one packed Beijing hospital, the report added.

Singapore said on Friday it had banned the import and sale of all milk and dairy products from China after tests found melamine contamination in two brands of China-made milk products.

Beijing has already recalled some milk powder exported by two firms whose products were found to be contaminated, and although it said "there has been no bad reaction" to those goods, many countries are alerting about their consumer health.

On Thursday Hong Kong recalled dairy products of one Chinese company.

Robert Madelin, director general for health and consumer protection at the European Commission, said the European Union did not import Chinese infant milk powder and there had been no EU reports of illness from other imported Chinese dairy products.

But with foreign consumers watching China again struggle with toxic food and claims of delays and coverups, Madelin told reporters in Beijing he expected an account of what went wrong.

"We are trying to establish the facts," Madelin said.

"On the government reports, we are also asking questions, and we will learn the truth probably about the same time you do."

After a nationwide check, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine named two of China's top dairy producers, Xinhua news agency has reported. Reuters

A CHINESE mother holds an infant baby as they wait for treatment at a hospital in Xian on Sept. 19. AFP

Hu Jintao: Deadly milk 'painful lesson'

BEIJING—CHINESE PRESIDENT HU JINTAO has sharply reprimanded local officials, state media said on Saturday, after a contaminated milk scandal claimed the lives of four babies.

There are "painful lessons" to be drawn from a series of health scares in China, the president reportedly told a Communist Party meeting on Friday, as stores nationwide pulled dairy products from their shelves.

"There have been some serious tarob and food safety accidents this year in certain places which have caused major harm to life and to the well-being of the masses," the People's Daily, the Communist Party mouthpiece, quoted the Chinese leader as saying.

"These incidents show that some officials have lost a sense of principle, of the public interest, of responsibilities, of attention to [people's] suffering," he told party colleagues.

China said this week that milk powder tainted with the chemical melamine, which used to make plastics, had sickened at least 6,200 babies nationwide and killed four over a period of many months.

Melamine was illegally mixed into milk products and has also been found in a variety of dairy products including yoghurts and ice cream.

It was apparently introduced by dairy suppliers to give the appearance of higher protein levels.

"We must draw painful lessons from these recent accidents," Hu said, calling them a "fresh warning." AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres Associate Editor Francis T. J. Odicta Website www.inquirer.net/sports

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■ US grabs Ryder Cup lead /A23

Can the talk, it's game time

La Salle, Ateneo duel; Tiu guarded

By Jasmine W. Payo

BY NOW, EVERYTHING THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SAID about the country's most passionate basketball rivalry has already been said.

The personalities from both defending champion La Salle and eliminations round topnotcher Ateneo have filled hectares of newsprint with their thoughts on the best-of-three championship series for the UAAP men's basketball crown.

The anticipation has been non-stop, the anglers lifted duty. The defending champion versus the fifth favorite. The Grand Slam conditioned coach versus the most decorated college mentor. The top seed versus the most successful squad of the past decade. Great versus Blue.

Enough, with the words. It's time the two varsity squads get it on.

Game 1 kicks off at the storied Araneta Coliseum, which will be the home of the most celebrated championship series this year, with La Salle and Ateneo hoping to get a breakout at the 6 p.m. match today.

As many may not remember again exhibit, Game 1 will put an end to the basketball buzz as other varsity match up (at present). Game 1 will kick off the action.

Because after all that talk, the only thing important for Ateneo coach Norman Black and La Salle mainstay Franz Pumaren is that their teams take a step closer to the title.

"Our goal is not completed yet," said Black after his Eagles marched into the championship round with a 14-1 record. "We set a goal from the beginning of the year to win the championship. Whatever it takes, we'll get it done."

And if there's one team that has shown many times over how to get a high-order game done, it's definitely the Archers, who own half of the league's crowns in the last 10 years.

"We're used to this kind of situation...competing for the finals," said Pumaren.

"I think we're right on track. The boys playing very players. But I need up my tiu performance in playing in the Finals, it will take a collective effort from all the players to win the championship. Down the road, it's the poise and execution that will help us in the coming games."

Bodyguards

On the eve of the first game, drama and controversy continued to walk the streets today in the family of Ateneo vice Chris Tiu. Tiu has reportedly hired bodyguards to look after the safety of their son, a while sources told the Inquirer yesterday.

The decision, a source close to the family said, was worked after several unidentified people reportedly tried to approach Tiu to unravel intrigues.

The source did not elaborate on who the people were and what they wanted, but said they wanted nothing Tiu really lost week. The source said the Tiu family did not want a repeat of the Mar Roxas-Lani case.

Because, a member with the FBI Tanauan, received a shooting incident recently, where he was shot by a lone assailant in a case widely believed to have linked to a game during eradicate.

The Eagles swept the Archers this season with a 79-73 topping in the first round, followed by a 65-57 exhibition victory in the second.

But of course, both squads know that precedents hardly matter in every Ateneo-La Salle duel.

"The winners will playing La Salle for me is worrying about their swabbering," said Black. "Ah always consider La Salle as one of the best coachbound teams in the league."

Pumaren, on the other hand, stressed that the Archers are touring for a tough series against a team even than them on paper.

Wishing it to the Finals is already a difficult task...so playing against the number one team will be a four-bet job for us," said Pumaren. "If you're going to look at Ateneo's lineup, they're a deep and complete team."

Bearing the fifth league of their basketball schools run the Ateneo's Chris Tiu, Rabeh Al-Hussaini and Jimmy Alapag and La Salle's JV Casio and Rico Maierhofer and James Yap.

NCO Maierhofer of La Salle (right) and rival-bidding ace Jimmy Baclao of Ateneo will play crucial roles for their schools. www.uaap.com

PUCAY QUE

World Cup qualifier: Pucay tows RP to lead

KUALA LUMPUR—MARI PUCAY PRO claimed a spectacular eagle to propel the Philippines into the third round lead at the Perdu International Club tonight on 3rd strike.

Wearing alongside Angelo Que, Pucay hit seven birdies in the fourteen hole ball Pucay is the Filipinos combined for an eight-under-par 64 to overhaul overnight leader Korea at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club.

Jun Jung-moon and Bin Hyung-tae slipped one stroke back after a 67 while Nguyen Quyhuuk Gheorge and Odin Andrew Odin kept Bon Omega Mirabes Hills World Cup dynamo after by sinking twisted place with after a 67.

With the top-three teams earning tickets to China in November, Italy, represented by Edoardo and Francesco Molinari, and Singaporean duo Lam Chi

Pacman tops Yahoo Sports best pound-for-pound list

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT MONTH, Filipino frontrunner Manny Pacquiao, preparing for the most important fight of his career yet, was adjudged the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world, according to Yahoo Sports polls yesterday.

The 29-year-old Pacquiao, set to face Oscar De La Hoya on Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand, has by the past three days been awaiting behind-closed doors at the MGM Club Dubai in Hollywood.

His training begins early in the morning with long jogs up and down the hilly road of Griffith Park, before plunging to afternoon weights and sessions with Freddie Roach.

Following one reported stint here, who got used to seeing Pacquiao's training, Sam Serra (landing Roach's request to stay close to the ring room this time. Allowing peace and quiet for Pacquiao, whose sensational wins over Juan Manuel Marquez and David Diaz this year put his works up as all-time high.

Pacquiao garnered 18 of 23 first-place votes cast from a panel of boxing writers and broadcasters around the world. He tallied 217 points to rank first among 10 fighters who are considered the finest in all weight categories these days.

Interestingly, Marquez, paired in the meetings, riding on the crest of his impressive win over Cuban legend Joel Casamayor to remedy to take second place in 2008 poll with one first-place vote to boot.

PACQUIAO

Marquez overtook Welterweight Joe Calzaghe (100-5 points), the super middleweight local champ, who previously ranked second in the Filipino fighter. Pacquiao's former teammate Israel Vazquez (14-0) was fourth after bowing the WBC super featherweight title last March.

The vote results, namely confirming what most boxing fans already acknowledged, just fueled the calls for a three-peat of the Pacquiao-Marquez duel.

The Filipino knocked the Mexican legend three times in the first round of their initial encounter in 2004 but Marquez escaped with a split decision.

Lost March. Pacquiao floored him in the third to secure a split decision win for the WBC super featherweight title.

However, in Sun-Lodger's own poll, Pacquiao ranked second to Calzaghe, who will end his illustrious career with a bout against Roy Jones Jr. on Nov. 8 at the Madison Square Garden.

The site described Pacquiao as somewhat who has "shown from no-name and has been name of the best fighter this sport has to offer—he's also become those."

But the article said the Filipino "may have fallen off more than he was there" by accepting a welterweight fight against De La Hoya.

ORCOLLO looks forward to another finals stint.

Orcollo, Pagulayan enter 9-ball s'finals

GUANGZHOU—FORMER WPBSF Pool champion Alex Pagulayan and current world No. 2 Dimitri Diodio breezed through the semifinals by handing their respective rivals yesterday in the quarterfinals of the Guangzhou 9 Ball Tour 2008 at the Guzhen Hotel & Guangzhou, China.

Pagulayan, the 2004 WPA 9-ball titlist, routed Japanese Satoshi Kinoshita of Japan, 9-3, while Orcollo doubled Singapore's Nor Hakim Ismail, 9-4.

The two Filipino aces also met in the finals of the Singapore leg, where Pagulayan claimed the crown over Orcollo. They are already assured of at least $1,300 (P61,360) for reaching the semifinals and Orcollo, a third-place finish of $1,800 (P85,000) in the event organized by ESPN Star Sports.

Holding a 4-3 advantage, Pagulayan pounced on several easy racks by Kinoshita to sweep the next five racks and five-rack.

Pagulayan will meet Wang Heng-hsiang of Chinese Taipei in today's semifinals.

Heng earned a ticket to the 6-and-Nine by overcoming countryman and defending Grand Slam champion Chang Jung-lin, 9-4.

Diodio was so inspiring he won the first eight racks before flubbing a shot on the four-ball in the ninth rack and allowing the Singaporean to score a shutout.

Breaking in the 10th rack, Yuki committed a foul on the one-ball and Diodio cleared out the match with a 5-0 coordination.

Diodio will meet Yang Qing-shun of Chinese Taipei in the other semifinals today at 11:30 p.m.

Yang defeated Ryu Seung-woo of South Korea, 9-5.

Pagulayan and Diodio's earnings earned them spots in the finals (9-ball in Jakarta, Indonesia, next month. Pagulayan was ranked 6th while Diodio was 10th in the Tour's Order of Merit going to the Guangzhou leg. *Ria Juarez*

Bacolod hosts nat'l team chess

THE 2008 NATIONAL Inter-Cities and Municipalities Team Chess Championship—will be held Oct. 8-12 in Bacolod City.

An annual undertaking of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Prospero "Bebit" Pichay and secretary-general and Tagaytay Day Eduardo Ilet shoot "Grandmaster" Eugenio, the tournament will have nine-round affair.

Pichay lauded the Bacolod City government, headed by Mayor Evelio "Bing" Leonardia, for their wholehearted support for the tournament.

"On behalf of the Bacolod chess players in the community, the NCFP would like to thank Mayor Leonardia and his staff for their support to the staging of the competition," said Pichay.

Each team is allowed to field only one-ranked player.

The champions will bring home the lion's share of P150,000 plus trophy and individual gold medals.

For details, contact NCFP executive and events director Nilo Abaya at 5346107, 0920-2390660 or 0929-2256220.

Another Aguilar milestone

GLENN AGUILAR OF ILLION Cub-Oscar-Accoo Hot Team powered another sweep to victory Ing the Superbikes Open class recently to the possible Superbike Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

It was another career milestone for Aguilar who captured the category on his full roster season in road racing with the support of Yellow Cab Pizza, ETM Motorcycle, Arcon Plus, Oakley, Bridgestone, Boss-L, Dupont, Alpinestars, Red Bull and MB Motosail.

Aguilar looks forward to more achievements like his previous wins as the first unofficial Filipino Asian motocross champ and as an 11-time motocross champion with 12 national titles.

"This afternoon means a lot to me as it proved doubting to superbikes this year was a right and timely decision," said Aguilar, who also finished his Yellow Cab Pizza and the Dunlop-Accoo Hot Team team with me all the way to this new milestone."

Aguilar was superb throughout aboard his Dunlop KMR-ee bike, posting a stole lead at the start of the race to turn back tough rivals John Lee and Mako Bunch.

He bagged the 18-lap morning race in 10 minutes and 29.490 seconds to clip 0.607 seconds ahead of Bunch.

Aguilar, according to Yellow Cab marketing specialist Andi Arimado, was even more inspired to the final race, hitting a fastest laptime of 1:40.803 as he completed the sweep in 18:08.837.

AGUILAR

Distrito suicide reports untrue

COLLEAGUE BONNIE NATIVIDAD called the office day asking for the phone number of a nurse friend residing in Seattle, Washington.

Bonnie said he needed to confirm conflicting reports about former PBA caged Rudy Distrito circulating in various parts of the United States.

Sacramento-based Dandon Ampofuo, according to Bonnie, received a text message from said Rudy had committed suicide inside his detention cell in Nevada.

Mirth Celis

Mom Salcedo got on situation reports in San Francisco and Peter Aguilar in Sacramento.

Bonnie said phone lines were burning from different parts of the US to the Gang, chair of the PBA Legends Foundation USA, in Seattle, to check out the alarming messages.

Abe, however, was just as in the dark as the next guy. He tried to call other people close to Santos, but their numbers made the cross more confused.

Then said Distrito had been deported to the Philippines.

* * *

As soon as Bonnie was apprised of these unconfirmed reports, he immediately tried to reach Sony with the Steroids Stole Princess. She couldn't get through because the nurse was told that he had to call the following day.

Up to midnight of Friday, Bonnie was still trying to call people in the US and Saudi Arabia who might know, but he always ended up having a busy tone.

Nobody knows.

Finally, yesterday morning Bonnie got word from Daniel. Rudy's daughter, that the body going through to her father inside the prison. Which of course goes without saying that Rudy is still very much alive.

Rudy denied that he was attempting to commit suicide. Bonnie said he got a big laugh out of the whole thing.

What is true is that the Steroids episode found is scheduled to evaluate Rudy's case in five days from now. Starting Sept. 23 to be exact.

Rudy's wife Jo and the rest of the family are anticipating that he will be pardoned and then deported to the Philippines.

According to Bonnie though, Rudy would rather stay in the US if he had the choice since his whole family is already based there.

* * *

I used to joke that tickets to an Ateneo-La Salle game are as rare as diamonds, except when I'm requested to secure one or two for friends.

Now it's no longer a joke. It is true that tickets to tonight's final game between the Eagles and the Archers have become as rare and expensive as a diamond. I just can't tell how many.

I was told that Palcon sent tickets sell out as much as P125,000 on the internet and there are buyers while upper box seats are sold at P5,000.

If tickets can be sold as high as P20k in the Internet, you can imagine how much higher they can cost at the actual venue!

Question: Is there such a thing as internet cooking?

* * *

Yesterday afternoon on the eve of Game One of the Ateneo-La Salle championship series, I was encouraged a question to former Ateneo Joseph Wo and ex-Eagle Enrico Villanueva, I asked them how they (when they were still players) see the UAAP's on the eve of an Ateneo-La Salle championship game.

"Nervous and excited because I know that in every DLSU-Ateneo game, especially if it's a championship match, I will be watched very closely," said Joseph who became a three-time UAAP MVP.

Enrico said he too felt the same way but insightfully, once inside the court the following day he became celebrities to his outer surroundings and totally focused on the game.

Alvarez Co, PBA legend Boy Co's lovely wife of almost three decades, has a piece of advice to husbands.

Minette writes: "I always read your pieces in PSL, whether they are about basketball or not. There's always something interesting to read. It was particularly funny when you wrote about eskimo time hugs in cold going to bed.

"I always tease my and other prospective grooms. But most importantly in a marriage is not "I do" but "yes dear". Apparently it has worked for Alex and me. We've been married for 28 ½ years!"

SPORTSWATCH

LGBA series lures 140 bets

SHORTED BY THE COUNTRY'S LEADING parimutuel bettors, the Luzon Games on Board, or the Association of Lucky Bettors, attracted 140 bettors on its first bet rounds at the San Juan Coliseum.

"Our members's message to me is that now last evening's 2008, from the big success of action," said LGBA head Rene "Boy" Diaz, who hoped that prize money may get up to almost P2 million.

Ahead 10 races combs bettors on the third round-down on Monday of ILE, bringing to 2008 action the total bally for the first leg series.

ADAA Gov. Joe Nonoy Ili (center) and MBT Commissioner Wilfredo C. Fernandez and other stud-making star Ynares Sports Complex at Angkla-ayo, Daraa Rizal, as venue for the Sulayan 4th Basketball League. With them is Mike Rebulanan.

Mighty Sports clinic up

DITSOT OR DUDOL? Ateneo cohorts Enzo, the fourth, the Mighty Sports Association for Youth Development with Twp. Victoria "Bambi" Ilanan recently held a two-day basketball clinic in several barangays in Miranda Oriental.

Dubbed as Mighty-Bambi Basketball Clinic, the event attracted more than 100 children, mostly from Barangay Ugak, where they were taught how to dribble, shoot and defend well.

Led by Arbo, by the coaching staff of Mighty Sports—composed of former PBA, FIL and collegiate stars—supervised the demonstration and several games held at the town court of Barangay Ugak.

Ilanan lauded the MSA for the free basketball clinic.

Juvenile Series at San Lazaro

THOROUGHBRED ACTION SIMULCASTS day at the San Lazaro Leisure & Business Park as Manila Jockey Club, Inc. hosts another exciting Festival in Caramoan, Cavite.

P2 million in purse money, P1 million for each division, was put up by the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission, luring some of the country's top 3-year-old gallopers to participate in the 2nd leg of the Juvenile Colts Hublot and Juvenile Fillies Stakes series.

"We would like to express all horses racing all-comers to welcome and patronize our well-balanced program of horse races for today," said MJC Host and president Alfonso E. Reyno, Jr.

The championship events are the second leg of the 2008 Philracom Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies Stake Series.

In the Colts division, the juvenile classic has lured eight two-year-old colts and 12-two-year-old fillies vying for the top purse of P600,000 in their respective divisions.

Heading the hunt for the Juvenile Colts title is Barangay Ramos and Ligaya and Christmas.

Agojo trails by 1 stroke; Pepperdine shares lead

FILIPINO JAYSIE AGOJO SHOT HIS second straight two-under par 71 Friday but dropped to second place in the Dick Wolcksler Invitational golf tournament at the New Mexico Championship Golf Course in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

With a 142 total, Agojo of Pepperdine University found himself trailing Josh Ewart of New Mexico by a stroke in the three-day event that lasted 54 carries.

Stanford's Joe Ingalsbeck with the course, Ewart carded with a 66 to overtake Agojo, who finished five-under, 136th and 18th holes to compensate for a lone bogey on No. 16.

Sharing third place at 204 were UCLA's Jordan Cook, who fired a 69, UNLV's Hatsuko Ito (70) and Texas' Nicole Vandenbosch (72).

Rounded at even par 288 were Texas' Veronica Felix (76), Pepperdine's Lizzie McCloskey (73), Indiana University's Laura Medica (72) and USC Trevor Charlton (unavailable info).

The efforts of Agojo, the 2005 Philippine Ladies Amateur Open titlist, and Ewart, proved enough to propel Pepperdine and New Mexico to a share of top spot as they pulled away from the 14 other competing schools.

Agojo, a senior taking up International Studies Major in Asian History, was supported by teammates Taylor Kiele and McCloskey, who contributed 73s, and Kellie Davidson, who carried a 74 for Pepperdine's 295 output in the second round. Jessica Wallace's 78 did not count under the five-to-plus, four-to-count format.

New Mexico rallied a day later 291 total to catch up with Pepperdine at 583 after two rounds. A distant third was UC Davis, which dropped nine shots behind following a 296 and an opening 298.

Colorado State U rallied with a 291 to catch up with Texas at fourth spot at 597, 12 shots off the pace.

The 21-year-old Agojo, who is on a golf scholarship, hopes to earn his degree in March next year.

US grabs Ryder Cup lead

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—HOO WEEKLEY STUMPED AROUND ACTHOUGH IT NM a Golfball game. Anthony Kim raced here set a record for high-five. Justin Leonard with Bob's memories of Hook fine.

The Americans found themselves in an unusual position Friday: leading the Ryder Cup.

A pumped-up US team—with Weekley leading the charge—was poised to take room-sounding lead on the opening day at Valhalla Golf Club, the first step toward erasing nine years of frustration in golf's ultimate team test.

During alternate-shot play in the morning, the Americans won two matches and were ahead in another, hoping to double their advantage.

Classic of Seasoned—three were chosen—defied stereotypes to ride a cart off the edge of the green at No. 12 to give the Americans a 1-up lead, letting out a scream as he bounced around the green.

But Westwood thought Weekley went too far with his raucous celebration. Westwood, who still had a putt to halve the hole, glared at Weekley.

"You walk a fine line when you start doing that sort of thing," Westwood said. "I don't mind walking your arm and whipping the crowd up, but at 12, when there's half of the hole. I've still got a putt for a half. There's no need to do it between shots. At least wait until we're walking off the green. It was interrupting the flow of play."

Weekley shrugged off the criticism.

"We train over there, the fans yell, they clap and holler and boos," he said. "What's the difference?"

Kim and Phil Mickelson defeated Padraig Harrington and Graeme McDowell 2-up, ensuring the Americans would go into Saturday's matches with a lead. Leonard and Ryder rookie Hunter Mahan picked up their second win of the day, beating Sergio Garcia and Miguel Angel Jimenez 4 and 3.

"It was fun day for us," Mickelson said. "I thought we played really a lot of hours, a lot of emotion."

For Garcia, it was the first disastrous loss of his Ryder Cup career.

The European Tour Sunday picked up their first full point with dusk approaching when Ian Poulter and Justin Rose closed out their match against Steve Stricker and Ben Curtis, winning 2 and 1.

The visitors also gained a point in the morning at the end of the alternate-shot session when Stricker and Curtis teamed to defeat Lee Westwood and Paul Casey, winning 2 and 1.

Harrington, winner of the last two majors, and Robert Karlsson gave the Europeans their only other half point of the morning, but that felt more like a loss after they left a 4-foot birdie putt on the lip of the second hole on Mickelson and Tim Clark.

Of the 28 points available, Europe needs only 14½ to retain the cup. The Americans must win, outright or by regain it.

US RYDER Cup team members Anthony Kim (back right), Hunter Mahan (left) and Kenny Perry (second from left) ride in a cart as they drive to match their teammates Justin Rose four-ball play. AP PHOTO

MARS Pucay (left) and Angelo Que share a high-five. JOHN KUAN

World Cup qualifier: Pucay shines

From page A23

Ting and Marden Marcos maintained their acceleration by tying to tied Josiah's place after notching 67s, one behind the Nigerians.

Kenny Dias and John Jared combined for a 68 to keep Mideast in the hunt after as they improved to tied sixth place and three shots off the Filipino quartet.

Que, who is chasing a first World Cup appearance, landed Pucay for taking them to the top of the leaderboard on 13 underpar 203.

"I worked really to three or four holes," said Que, who is a two-time Asian Tour champion. "It was challenging when they were really good and he hit like 15 shots within six feet."

Pucay was one the course as he collided a return to Kim Dermal, where he also qualified for the World Cup to 2009 with Riki Gaon. He knows they have a great chance to qualify for China but warned that the race for the top three is fields one for from zero.

"It's ready to think about China," Pucay said. What you're holding the lead, there's always pressure. We're approaching each other and not focusing anyone. We are both trying our best to make birdies and pars. We respect each other so much and we look each other. That one been the key this week."

Rivera dropped a bogey on the 11th hole and Kim conceded they were starting to feel the pressure after leading the first two rounds.

"We felt a bogey on [1] and we felt nervous," he explained. "We will have a chance. I think if we can shoot even par in the tournament tomorrow we will be in China."

The unbeaten Filipinos moved on to contest for a division ticket to the World Cup and have been encouraged by numerous text messages from back home.

Related story, page A23

Last round scores: 203—**Philippines** (Angelo Que, Marc Pucay) 67-70-66; 220—**Qatar** (Ibn Ting, Marden Marcos) 67-76-77; 221—**Nigeria** (Ayodeji Adeoye, Godwin Ajayi, Chris Ekwuno) 68-76-77; 229—**Singapore** (Mardy Ishak, Lee Chih Eng) 80-73-82; 230—**Indonesia** (Rahmat Edwin, Hidayat) 69-77-82; 236—**Malaysia** (Ian Yeoh, Harry Chin) 72-80-84; 238—**Hong Kong** (David Fung, Jacob Freeman) 78-78-82

Miole tames Dye, wins at Eagle Ridge

THE EYE COURSE PLAYED TRUE to its somewhat reputation and Hector Miole, the player with the highest handicap in the Class A event, hasn't started out a case stroke victory in the Eagle Ridge monthly members' tournament for September recently.

Miole, an 11-handicapper, carried a 72 to beat Arkadelphiapy Lee Tong Whe by a stroke and 9-handicapper Hendon Villanueva by two, ending his month by a victory in a division mark.

Overall dominated by former superintendent who actually the only player among the 120 who played the Eye course to break 80 but his 79 was not enough to foil Miole's hot game.

Fe Villacorta topped Class B by a stroke after a gross 83 and net 75 and Sergio Ting won the Class C winner with a 95-18 to the other divisions played at the Dye layout.

At the fields events, Frederic Salit won Class B, Arlette Dizon and Ernest to Rutherford took the ladies titles, Eagle Ridge and Jim Hyuk Lee were the dependents winners and senior honors went to Lee Nam Lee and William Hutchins.

Salit carried a 42 to beat Robert Hernandez by three, Dizon topped Class A with a 102-71, Rutherford edged Sung Shin Lee by one in Class B with low 96-87, Hyuk 102-71; Jose Pauline del Rosario while Lee had the day's lowest gross of 79 for a net 61.

GDAP show ends today; Golf Digest out

DID YOU KNOW THAT LEGA classified Jennifer Rosales has seven tattoos, body piercings and eleven dogs?

Find out seven of 146 in the Golden Generation of Golf Digest Philippines which was released in time for the 13th Philippine International Golf Show, which ends today at the SMX Convention Center in SM Mall of Asia complex.

Also in the issue are a 16-page special golfer guide for the holidays, a swing tips by Tiger Woods coach Hank Haney and features and Carolan Cassi' recent victory on the Mercedes-Benz Tour.

Visit the Golf Digest booth at the Golf Show today and get a chance to win golf sets, holidays to The Cliffs at Pearl Drive, La Union and Club Punta Fuego, free rounds at exclusive courses and many more special items.

"We've had a good turnout in the first two days, we believe it's going to get better on the last day," said exhibit chair Randy Nuno of Publisher's.

Callaway, Mike Golf, Taylormade, Wilsons, Nilson, Dunlop Golf, Mizuno, Asharoufs, Maruman, Adams Golf, Tourstage, Ping, Titleist, among others, are also featured in the golf show.

The Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines also based that for the benefit of those who want to catch the Mission La Salle game live, organizers will have a big screen television at the venue. Most of the exhibitors have also been encouraged to offer deals on their TV to make

JENNIFER Rosales on GD Cover

Sunday SPORTS

CHRISTINE Grace Pacuan completes the butterfly leg of her 400m individual medley race on the way to breaking a pair of Philippine Olympic Festival records.

Tan relives POF pool dominance, resets event records

By Jane Navarro

LOS BAÑOS—CHRISTINE GRACE TAN returned to the site of her past triumphs and broke a pair of event records yesterday in the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival-Hosts Southern Tagalog qualifying leg.

Last year's meet homebelled student from Lipa City Batangas, captured three gold medals at the state of swimming competitions and bettered old POF marks in the 100m freestyle and 400m Individual Medley for girls' 15 and over at the pool of the ex- Texas Aquarius Leisure here.

The 15-year-old Tan clocked one minute and 1.06 seconds in the 100m free to improve on the record of Quezon City's Louise Emmerson, who registered 1:03.97 in the same event last year. She then clocked 5:22.70 in the 400 IM to eclipse last year's POF mark of 5:23.13 set by Dumaguete City's Erika Homacion.

"I guess the daily training with the national pool helped improve my clockings," said Tan, a national pool mainstay who pocketed 13 gold medals in the BVT qualifying last year in Naga City.

The charming 5-foot-3 Tan, a third-year high school at the center of acquisition excellence Davao College, also registered triple-A times on both events, aside from sealing the gold in the 100 backstroke (1:12.27).

Her personal bests also moved her closer to national yardsticks. She moved to within a little under three seconds of Chanel Sinsuy' 100 free RP record (58.81) that was still about 17 seconds off Erica Sosua's 400 IM national mark (5:05.43).

Tan nabbed Julia Joy Dolan Alas of Laguna (1:19.68) and Cess Ilse's Carpio Bohol (1:24.15) in the 100 back of the event supported by Pagcor, Accel, Globe, Summit Mineral Water, Negros Navigation and Creativity Lounge.

While Tan, who has 13 more events in the pool, shone in the girls' division, Siargao Rookie standout Ripkin O'Dea was in holy hands in the 13-14 boys' 100 backstroke (1:11.22).

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Laguna increase its medal haul to 27 golds, 22 silvers and nine bronzes.

The 14-year-old from San Pablo City, Laguna clinched gold medals in the boys' 15 and over 100 free, 100m back and 400 IM, all of them triple A times. His 4:48.43 performance in the 400 IM improved on the old mark of Michael Mae Bacala of Naga City (4:56.12) set last year.

Bocjo, a senior at the Liceo de San Pablo high school, topped the 100 free in 57.70 seconds at the expense of Puerto Princesa's Jason Mercader (57.87) and Naga City's Wilfredo Sargias (57.93).

Bocjo made it two in a row over Mercader with a 1:03.89 clocking in the 100 back. Mercader clocked 1:04.29 while Jose Perilla of Cavs Sur settled for bronze in 1:06.32.

Laguna collared six golds in the pool and five to pools through Pedrolo Lorenzo Green's opens), Camille Santos (women's open), Nike Nino Briones (400m), John Lorenzo (800m) and Bernard Rodriguez (1500m).

The province also grabbed the gold in girls' volleyball with a 25-18, 25-20 victory over host UPLB and had three consecutive sweeps before the second two-straight victories each in chess; Ana Margarita Ignis under 14), Rachell Espino (girls' 20 under) and Michaela Angelina Fajardo (girls' open).

NCAA BASKETBALL

Ekwe bags 2nd MVP trophy

By Jeannine W. Pays

SOT EVEN RECENT SUB-PAR GAMES hampered Sam Ekwe's bid to capture his second NCAA Most Valuable Player award.

Ekwe didn't blow pot a lock on the plum after averaging 13.1 points, 13.6 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per game in the court's basketball competition, which the 6-foot-9 Nigerian also dominated in 2006 as a rookie MVP.

The results, officially released by host Mapua yesterday, came after the Indiosoon's owner posted a season-low four points in his last two outings.

Ekwe, who was reportedly picked up by pulsar last Sunday, edged statistical leader Jason Ballesteros of San Sebastian due to a new league rule that allows only players from Final Four teams to qualify for the top individual award.

The Stags finished in a four-way tie for second with a 8-5 record, but bowed out of the semifinals after scrambling in a pair of playoff matches.

Ballesteros, who averaged 8.9 points, 16.3 boards and 3.4 blocks, got consolation with the Best Defensive Player honor and joined Ekwe, Jose Rizal University's Mario Hayes, Mapua's Neil Pascual and Letran's JO Ababa in the Mythical Team.

Mapua's Allan Mangahas clinched the Rookie of the Year, while Perpetual Help's Buffy Tuviera took the Most Improved Player award.

All individual awards were based solely on statistics.

LONE TOUCHDOWN
Ulanda Kinyahunda
3 RBIs in — Bacilosilo
vs Mapua

52-point game

JRU's Kevin Agustilo, who accurately made league history by scoring 83 points, runs the MHP joiners' title aside from earning the the Most Improved Player, Best Defensive Player and Mythical Team citations.

The awarding ceremony is set on Game 2 of the Finals on Sept. 26, two days after the opener of the men's Finals series.

Tom Brida and Mapua will clash in knockout battle at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow for the right to face JRU in the best-of-three series showdown.

The Lions need Ekwe to snap out of his slump if they hope to dispose of the hard-fighting Cardinals.

SAM EKWE of San Beda clinches his second MVP award, marred somewhat by recent lackluster performances.

Beermen cruise to easy rout

By Rovina S. Acerra

DOHA... JAM MIGUEL BEER WAS NEVER IN trouble on its 69-day night (Saturday morning in Manila) as it dumped host Qatar squad Al Sadd, 82-35, with all 11 Brewmen scoring at least a basket in the Al Ghanim Sports Club gymnasium.

The Beermen trailed only once at 0-1 when Al Sadd's Raymond sank the first basket. Brandon Hendrixson and Mike Gotea then racked up seven straight points to give San Miguel the lead for good.

Jonas Villanueva started the second period with a triple and a jumper for the Beermen's first double-digit spread, 21-11.

"We're very happy that we won," said team captain Dion Ilarela, whose entry to the final 1:04 of the third period had the fans up on their feet. "This is like our homecourt. We came here not only to prepare for the coming PBA season but to make the fans happy."

In the first game, Egypt National team edged Qatar National team, 79-78. Saturday night's Thursday morning in Manila) loss touch pits San Miguel against Egypt. The Brewmen face to Qatar on Friday night, 7:1 a.m.

Al Sadd was allowed just two points in the third period, which also saw the hosts' defense turn tough. Wesley Gonzales, who registered with nine points, and Hendrixson had to be restrained from confronting their defenders.

Unlike opening night Thursday when recovery personnel forcibly separated the Brewmen from the fans, Filipinos were allowed to cheer in the court after the match.

Very pleased with the result tonight, Rashid Al-Abdulla, general manager of the Qatar Basketball Federation, has already announced his staff to invite another Philippine basketball.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL 82—Gonzales 9, Villanueva 8, Ilarela 8, Reed 6, Hendrixson 17, Pascual, Gotea 6, Hontiveros 6, Barquin 4, Rosario 5, Cortuvo 2.

AL SADD 35—Raymond 17, Sarsour 4, Hassan 3, Wahab 2, Kadoui 2, Mohammed 2, Rashid, Jaaved 4.

Quarters: 41-11, 21-12, 17-12, 23-23

COURTESY CALL US President George W. Bush (second from left) talks with Boston Celtics team captain Paul Pierce (left) Friday in the East Room of the White House in Washington, during a ceremony honoring the 2008 NBA champions. The Celtics defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in six games to win their 17th title.

Kazakhstan sends RP Davis Cup team crashing

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES STUMBLED TO Group II of the Davis Cup Asia Oceania after the doubles partnership of Cecil Mamiit and Johnny Arcilla bowed in to Kamahl Ross, 7-5, 6-2, 6-1, last night in Astana City, Kazakhstan.

The loss put the Philippines in an inconsequential 0-3 hole to the tie drop, giving the country back to Group 3. The Philippines played to Group 1 this year.

Reverse singles will still be played though the national team has yet to announce their players.

Mamiit (6th in Peter Schultz, 6-4, 6-1, 6-3, while Arcilla lowered to Andrei Golubev, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0, as the Philippines dropped the opening singles last Friday at the city courts of the national tennis center.

Arcilla and Golubev, who are said to be former Russian nationals, stuck the dagger in the jugular in the doubles.

RP Davis and Hamah Guba were supposed to have played the doubles but were replaced in the last minute in the hopes of staying the distention.

Philippine Tennis Association vice president Randy Villanueva said the country is undergoing a major facelift in terms of Davis Cup team.

He was actually counting on junior champions Kyle Dandan and Mike Alcantara to step up and replace the old guards but he said the late that both of them haven't been active in the local circuits.

Villanueva said Phlta is training its sights on two foreign netters with Filipino roots who would possibly beef up the team next year.

Dan of Davis is University of Virginia Cavalier Evan Hoey who was born to a Filipino mother and is willing to don the RP colors in the Davis Cup and even the Lion Sanchezan Asian Games.

The 23-year-old Hoey would bolster the RP Davis Cup team after doubles specialist Eric Taino reportedly called it quits.

The has already sent documentaries to us citing his intention to play" said Villanueva.

Also being eyed is 20-year-old Hilipino German Marc Siebel.

King of the Road kicks off

THE AGENDA KING OF THE ROAD UNVEILS on Oct. 11, 2008 at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

With competition in the 5K, 10K and 21K recreation event, the Adidas King of the Road 2008 held in conjunction with the Ground Colleges "1 World 1 Target" 2008 celebration is expecting to draw 15,000 runners from all walks of life.

Aside from the champions of the different distances, top finishers in the age group category of the 10K and 5K events will also receive cash prizes and gift certificates plus medal. Extra competition is also up for grabs in the 10K distance. To be eligible to participate in the team competitions, a team must have a minimum of 50 runners with the top 25 runners of the team scoring.

According to Grady Custodio, Adidas Phils., Sports Marketing Manager, registration is now on going at Adidas brand stores located at Trinoma, SM Megamall, The Podium, Rockwell Powerplant Mall, Greenhills Annex Center, SM Mall of Asia and Festival Mall. Registration at Barquez Blackgrid Bldg. at 30 Annapolis St. in Greenhills in San Juan starts Monday. Registration fee is P300. Singlets and race packets are issued upon registration.

Last year, the Adidas King of the Road was held simultaneously in 10 cities attracting 50,000 runners nationwide. Topping the 10km Manila event was Eduardo Buenavista in 1:07.16 while Ria An Barcenas topped the distaff side in 1:29.17.

In all, a total of P800,000 cash prizes and Adidas gift certificates awaits finishers.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- When success tastes just as sweet /B4

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor: Margie Quiroga-Espino

How do you work?

After lengthy struggle, fortune smiles on young entrepreneur

THIS LIKED to be the kind of home the Capulongs built ...

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

ALLAN CAPULONG'S HIGH school summers vacations were not like that of most teens.

For two weeks after classes end, while his friends were loitering around or playing basketball, Allan and his brother Lizzel were literally building roads in the family's housing development project in Cavite.

The 24-year-old bachelor oversees operations the family's construction firm, Homewell Development Corp., usually going to work at 6 a.m. sid, under the scorching sun, he would mix concrete and lump the material to the site using buckets. He would work on the structure until 5 p.m., just like the other workers.

"That's why I can really say to you I

ATTHE BO

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How to lead change

HOW CAN FORD MOTOR Co. recover from declining sales and a diminished image? How can a troubled financial sector right the ship after an onslaughts of home foreclosures? How can airlines escape their perpetual flirtations with bankruptcy?

In his classic text, "Leading Change," John Kotter offers timeless insights into the mechanics of change.

In particular, he explores the following eight fundamental qualities of successful change leadership.

This week, I give my space to my friend, author John Kotter.

Eight qualities of successful change leadership

1. Establish a sense of urgency

When leaders realize that people have an aversion to change. Unless president to make adjustments, most people won't budge from business as usual. Since leaders are likely the first ones to sense the need for change, they must convey a sense of urgency to convert high-flying the threats of staying the same.

2. Gather a guiding coalition

Before making the case for change or the entire organization, a leader should persuade fellow influencers of its necessity. In every company, a small group of stakeholders has claim to a majority of the influence. Unless a change agent rallies these key decision-makers to his side, he will have difficulty garnering enough momentum to shift the organization.

3. Create a vision

Before launching a movement for change, it's essential to formulate a compelling vision in support it. The vision should clearly spell out the rationale for making a change, and it should paint a picture of the preferred future that will arise as a result of the change. On a practical note, the vision should be refined and simplified until it can be shared in five minutes or less.

4. Communicate the vision

Human emotions tend to be drawn toward the discomfort and inconvenience of change. For this reason, it's critical to make every effort to communicate the value of change. Leaders use readily available media, but they also spending disproportionate amounts of time when they should be more afraid of their people misinterpreting the vision or losing sight of it.

5. Empower others to act on the vision

Pros and Surmount, build margin for change. People's responsibilities continue in addition to their involvement in major change initiatives. Give them space to internalize the change and readjust their focus. Changing is a difficult endeavor. Be sure simple resources, meetings, and mini-boosts are being devoted to make it happen.

6. Plan for and create short-term wins

Oftentimes, the scale of a needed change can be overwhelming. Where is it done in bite-sized bits, and be sure to celebrate every milestone accomplished. Build upon small, short-term victories to infuse the team with momentum so that they can carry on the full extent of the desired changes.

7. Consolidate improvements to extend change

At first, changes are fragile. They need nourishment and protection in order to take root in the organization. Be vigilant of hard-fought changes, and recognize that many of them will take years to be fully ingrained in the organization.

8. Institutionalize new approaches

As the best leaders know, change is not a once-in-a-while proposition. The process of change is ongoing. When leaders manage change effectively, they gain respect for their ability to craft a culture where change is a regular, even welcome, aspect of the organization.

* * *

For more insights from John Kotter, pick up a copy of his book, "Leading Change," or ring the Jobfactory.com.

For information on John Maxwell's leadership seminars, please e-mail to spiritedsales@gmail.com. Text 09178870333. OR to 4632 (Smart) to get daily JMS Intel, with insights from John Maxwell.

Banking giant set to hold 3rd BPInoy Awards for world-class Filipinos

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands (BPI) will recognize the achievements of overseas Filipinos in various fields of expertise in the upcoming BPInoy Awards in ceremonies to be held on Oct. 3, 2008.

Now on its third year, the BPInoy Awards aims to commemorate BPI's commitment to empowerment and encourage individuals among Filipinos abroad.

Over the past nine years, awardees include musical theater artist Lea Salonga; US-based technology entrepreneur Rhoda-dio "Dada" Ramazan, international fashion designer Monique Lhuillier; and famous heart surgeon Dr. George Garcia of Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

"BPI is privileged to share and celebrate the success achieved by overseas Filipinos who have truly demonstrated inherent Pinoy values," says Aurelio R. Montinola III, president and CEO of BPI.

"The same values that catapulted them to world renown bring honor and recognition to our country."

As BPI launches its third BPInoy awards, it also marks its own achievement in the remittance industry as the Top Commercial Bank for Overseas Filipino Remittances for the third straight year. BPI has also been cited as the first bank to be conferred with the BSP Hall of Fame Award for its five branches.

To be nominated, an individual must be of Filipino heritage, regardless of current citizenship, and of good moral character.

Persons may be cited for their outstanding achievements as long as they have lived and worked overseas.

All nominees will be evaluated by the BPInoy Awards Steering Committee based on criteria that include top-of-mind awareness and societal impact of achievements.

Two awardees will be chosen among the nominees; an expert from the arts, media or sports arena, and another for business, science and technology.

The BPInoy awardees will get a chance to reconnect with his country. Awardees in 2007 will donate P50,000 to a local charity of their choice.

The awarding will coincide with BPI's BPInoy Week celebration in October.

Nominations may be made by any Filipino individual or organization based here or abroad, by sending the nominee's name, profession, location, contact details and a short summary of his achievements.

The nomination should also give his contact details.

Nominations may be sent via e-mail to bpinoy-awards@bpi.com.ph or via snail mail to Athena Ballesa, marketing department, overseas customers segment, Bank of the Philippine Islands, 6/F BPI Family Savings Bank Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Dela Rosa St., Makati City 1226, Metro Manila.

finally those roads," says Allan.

But the Capulong family's initial foray to real estate was a failure.

Most people would likely give up if they experienced what the Capulong family had to go through.

Even though members of the family had worked on the Cavite project for 18 years, they eventually were forced to abandon the venture.

"We were all sorts of problems—political, internal, labor," recalls Allan, who was still in elementary school when the developments started.

When he was barely out of college, his father decided to put the project on hold.

Their financial house had piled up to more than nine digits. The emotional and psychological issues to the family were higher.

Lifestyle changes had to be made. Allan described how he thinks a year trips abroad disappeared.

When the decision to go into real estate was made in 1991, the family's fortunes were built around the Capulongs' apartment business.

But Allan's father, Edgardo, realized early that globalization would soon render many industries, including garments, uncompetitive in the face of China's liberalization, which opened a huge source for cheap manufacturing.

In the early 1990s, real estate was booming. So the elder Capulong decided to expand into real estate.

Following their bad experience in Cavite, the Capulongs opted to try their luck with another property in Pampanga. That too would soon to be a disappointment.

Just like in Cavite, the Capulongs opted to go into low-cost housing development in Pampanga.

Allan, armed with an entrepreneurial degree from San Beda College in Alabang, was working as a trainee in an insurance company.

He says his father requires two things from his five children—two years work experience outside the family business and a master's degree.

But while Allan was working abundant full-time, he still managed to help out in the Pampanga project during weekends.

The substantial fund sent the family in the Cavite project had taken a toll on Allan's father, who developed stress-related ailments.

Allan's mother, Gemma, had to oversee the Pampanga project.

At first went by, the project began to suffer from a host of problems as well. From 2003 to 2005, the Capulongs struggled.

"We had experiencing failures just after another," Allan said.

Both the Cavite and Pampanga projects were low-cost housing ventures with price tags of P500,000 to P1 million.

As of July 2006, when Allan enrolled in the Master in Entrepreneurship course at the Asian Institute of Management, the Pampanga project had only sold 50 units in three years at P600,000 each.

"We were burned out," Allan recalls.

His broker wanted to carry the project. "Ugly" was the word used by marketing people to describe Hernwell's venture.

But Allan saw the project from another point of the project—it had a good location. The project is in San Fernando, Pampanga. It is near the highway, located between high-end subdivisions.

In his AIM class, Allan was required by his guru, Jacqui Antonio, to sell 200 low-cost units by the end of the 10-week course.

It seemed an impossible task.

Allan was also required to undertake an external assessment of his project—to survey the political, economic, social, technological and environmental factors that affect his business.

Included in his study was a competitive analysis.

"I started visiting all my competitors, all 65 of them," he says. "It was a reward."

It was not an easy job. It took a lot of time and effort. Most of the time, he had to be very discreet, especially when he would talk to brokers.

"I organized the projects into which sold and which did not and why."

On top of having a good location and the project being a viable one, Allan has come to identify two key factors—a good concept and good relationships between developers and construction workers.

"Your project should have a story," he says.

As for the builders, he explains that his relationship with them should go beyond the professional, "like bringing a broker's accountant every time she is in the hospital."

Armed with this insights, Allan found Hernwell's niche in Pampanga.

In the last quarter of 2006 Hernwell undertook a total makeover and shifted its positioning to the middle to above middle income market, targeting professionals in Pampanga and relatives of Filipinos professionals abroad.

Hernwell's team also a massive change in the housing styles.

American style houses were adopted and the project was also renamed from Villa Regina to Florida Residences.

In 11 months, from January 2007 to November, the Pampanga project registered a dramatic turnaround led by the then 23-year old Allan.

A total of 230 units were sold at about P2.5 million each.

We not only met the sales figure set by his boss, he exceeded it by more 50 percent.

Brokers used to avoid the project like the plague. Now, everyone who has any business selling real estate stands a piece of Florida Residences. There is now a queue to become an accredited broker of Hernwell.

Sales grew some 1,800 times, rising from what once was a red bottom line.

The turnaround earned for Allan a Sapphire Pin business award which he graduated from AIM last December.

And he has since entered a reputation of being a "turnaround prince." Developers and landowners are now approaching him to help them with their projects.

"I got 17 inquiries from real estate firms asking us to repackage or reposition their projects," he says.

As a result, he set up Center of Management Technology (CMT) Research and Consultancy three months ago to provide the service he is being asked to do.

The consultancy is for various stand-alone projects or for repackaging programs.

Despite the fact that his initial experience with real estate were not very inspiring, Allan says that, like his dad, real estate excites him.

"My dad and I get goose bumps when we see a property no matter how dirty it is," he says. "We always see a vision of what it can become."

A true-blue entrepreneur, Allan is setting up yet another business—he will soon launch his own clothing line for males and females called IconCreations.com.

Allan, who's still single, has also adopted his personal corporate social responsibility (CSR) early on. He devotes days a week to coach entrepreneurship at his college alma mater.

He says helping the young to chart quest for a business venture is his "pay back" to society.

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INQUIRER
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Biologist pushes memory power

By Marisse Cinco
Lea Bello, Lagaso

TURNING WHAT USED TO BE HIS ACHILLES heel to an advantage was how 38-year-old Ernie Aragon Jr. developed his unique memory techniques.

He is no longer just the guy who can recall all 50 of the nearest hundredth digit or memorize 40 items in a minute. He has gone one to establish Power Memory Franchising Inc. (PMFI).

PMFI, which started in March 2003, offers training programs to anybody who wishes to enhance his memory capacity. The technique is basically associating an item with another object that the person is familiar with.

Ernie, now the executive vice president of PMFI, has adapted and modified portions of the Loci[per and Imam methods, as well as that of the ancient Greeks, in devising Power Memory techniques and teaching applications.

Memory-training specialist Harry Lorayne authored the "Ageless Memory," while Tony Buzan is the proponent of mind mapping and mental literacy methods.

Biology professor

Ernie remembered a professor telling him that, although he was good in anatomy, he was slim "fair" when it comes to memorization. This prompted his research in 1993 to enhance his memory.

When he graduated, Ernie taught microbiology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños for five years.

Since his students were just about his age, he tried to earn their respect by giving a demo at the beginning of each class.

"I would ask them to list anything without

PMFI coach Dicky Capoz checks on her student's exercise on memorizing 52-digit exams.

one looking at it."

From simple items to phone numbers, foreign words or even scientific names, Ernie memorized all the words, leaving his students in awe.

"Other teachers thought the exams I was giving were easy because my students scored high," when in fact, he only taught them an easier way of memorizing terms.

Partnership

By promising the technique, at least among his students, Ernie said he was able to improve it and formulate various modules.

Ernie considered the technique to entrepreneur Ed Pineda Jr., 38, who was in the wealth insurance business then.

"I was stunned [with the demo] that I asked him, 'Could you teach others that?' Could you teach others to teach it? Could you write a manual?'" Ed said.

When Ernie said he loved, the partnership was born.

CANOE supervising some of PMFI's students

PMFI started with a capital of P50,000 that Ed had to borrow from a friend. In three months, they were able to sell around 100 franchises, acquire office equipment, buy a company car and settle their accounts.

According to Ed, who acts as chair, PMFI currently has eight franchises in Luzon, Boracay and Cebu, with around 15,000 students enrolled.

Genius within

Ernie said Power Memory requires focus and attention.

"You have to be conscious that you are memorizing," he explained.

Since PMFI has students from seven to 74 years old, it uses a contextualized approach by injecting games and visuals in the class.

"We even ask our coaches to coach jokes during their audition (job application)," he added.

The program and teaching styles are designed according to age group instead of the usual subject-based courses. According to Ernie, the technique is interesting enough to use words, whether they are engineering or biology terms, until just for the exam.

Power Memory also differs from other techniques since it utilizes not only the left (technical) side, but also the right (creative) side of the brain.

"Each person has his own learning style. There is a genius within oneself, the subconscious, we use a person to tapped only because his learning style it does not match the style of traditional schools."

And there are many other areas of intelligences, such as kinesthetic, artistic and musical, that need to be looked into, he added. It is for this reason that PMFI employs different methods of teaching.

Total recall

When he first took the Power Memory diagnostic exam, he scored only two correct items out of 20. But after a two-hour training with Ernie, he was surprised to get a perfect score in a 60-item memorization test.

"You can immediately see the results," he said, adding that "we even have the audacity to give someone their money back 10 days he not satisfied."

Three modules are recommended for grade school level, two for high school and one for college, with each module divided into eight sessions.

BUSINESS, B2

do you share e-mail or share knowledge?

RP outbound travel expected to grow by 5.2% in second half

OUTBOUND TRAVEL FROM the Philippines for the second half of 2008 is expected to grow year-on-year by 5.2 percent, according to the latest MasterCard Worldwide Index of Travel report.

The report also says that Filipinos will make an estimated one million departures in the second half of the year for business and leisure purposes.

According to the report, Juin Pardo is set to see a steady growth in the number of outbound travelers for the second half of 2008 despite the economic pinch felt across the region.

Singapore is expected to draw the youngest year-on-year growth of 23 percent, with more than 4 million departures for leisure and business purposes expected over the next six months. Other markets that are anticipated to register healthy year-on-year growth include China (12 percent), Bangkok (11 percent), Hong Kong (6 percent).

In spite of global economic uncertainty and rising inflation, outbound travel in Asia-Pacific is poised for steady growth over the rest of 2008," said Dr. Sean Hedrick-Wong, economic advisor to MasterCard Worldwide in Asia/Pacific. "This is largely due to the fact that income and employment have not been seriously affected by the global credit crunch, and higher inflation has yet to translate into higher prices in plane tickets and rates of accommodation. Should these conditions change, however, the outlook will be very different."

The report revealed Filipinos' fondness for Hong Kong as their top personal or leisure travel destination (52 percent of the surveyed respondents).

The other favorite destinations for leisure travel for Filipinos were Singapore (48 percent) and Thailand (32 percent). The most popular activities for Filipino travelers when abroad were general sightseeing (68 percent), experiencing different cultures (64 percent) and wet and relaxation (60 percent).

Released twice a year, the MasterCard Worldwide Index of Travel contains of a forecast on outbound travel for the six-month period ahead for 13 Asia-Pacific markets.

The Business of Caring

TeleTech's main strength is its people and winning culture.

For an international corporation that currently employs more than 10,000 individuals in the Philippines alone, TeleTech's leadership philosophy can be summed up in three simple, yet powerful words: multiskill, meritocracy and inspiration.

Multiskill. This single word drives the direction of TeleTech Philippines in its day-to-day operations. TeleTech is the leading Business Processes Outsourcing company, with thousands of employees all over the world and with a justifiable pride in the technology and standardized processes that have been developed over many years of successful operations. But beyond technology and techniques, TeleTech values the human element in running its business.

Wanda Pardo, Senior Vice President and General Manager, knows her TeleTech's in the driver's seat, leading the organization to greater heights of achievement. He notes that even if he

TeleTech Officers (L-R) Vivek Agarwal, Executive Director; Maria Agatea, Executive Director; Brian Moreno, Vice President for Operations; Raj Dewgil, Vice President for Operations; Wanda Pardo, Senior Vice President and General Manager for Asia; Ramon Magpantay, PLDT Vice President - Relationship Director; Noel Dio, Vice President, Operations Director for Telus Acquisition; Al Rendi, Vice President for Operations; and Marvin Hernandez, Executive Director for Human Capital

are being sued as a Filipino, comes quite adequately reasonable indeed. In our society, feel to mean any several that at acted. On office cubicles none which he feels it parallel to it - Asians, an Indian used that translates to compassion - his which, like multiskill, does not lend itself easily to an English translation.

"What is more important," says Ms. Pardo, "especially for our operations in the Philippines, is our people and how we nurture their potential."

TeleTech goes the extra mile to make sure its employees feel significant because they are clearly at the core of the company. According to Mr. Pardo, TeleTech dedicates a huge portion of their budget to employee-centered projects called locally called "Biz Care" programs.

And Biz Cares or employees for the largest great concerns! TeleTech has received numerous awards, establishing the organization's leadership position in the BPO space globally. Among its most meaningful distinctions is winning the Employer of the Year for the 2008 Stevie Awards for providing equal employment opportunities to the physically challenged. Most recently, it is the consensual spirit of meaningful which people continue to achieve excellence in their professional and personal lives.

TeleTech creates value effort and passion to support almost the most talented people in the community. TeleTech's reluctance to develop, motivate and retain these people through its unique "Biz Care" initiatives.

TeleTech does not employ people by having them enjoy work-life balance right in their Delivery Centers with their On-Site centers, game areas and movie showing rooms to help them

succeed, upgrade skills and foster sleeping chambers, gym and gymnasium for their employees. In addition, TeleTech maintains partnerships with various well-known establishments who provide extraordinary perks to its employees by flashing their TeleTech Personal Identity Card.

"We want to make our employees feel special," says Ms. Pardo earnestly. He adds that this encourages everyone "to provide their employees and customers their best for window shopping and public consumption." TeleTech recognizes that it belongs to bigger communities. Thus, TeleTech Do Things has been established, with a mission to provide opportunities for employees volunteers to give back to their community. Mr. Pardo speaks of a program encompassing all 12 Philippine TeleTech sites, with projects focusing on education and the local youth - initiatives from their own employees, from them the state, spirit of such to the TeleTech employee to nobody denies.

If successful is the first element of TeleTech's success, then creating an environment where employees enjoy - and retaining people is only a handy act for next two. TeleTech believes in investing in their people's leadership skills so they can take them forward to the next level. It's one milestone to have 12-year-olds managing anywhere from fifteen to a hundred other employees, if they've proven themselves worthy. TeleTech is devoted to the degree of upward career mobility. Its about ring employees can look forward to. In the past five years alone, TeleTech's operating growth from 6,000 to 10,000 employees has paved the way for over 3,000 promotions.

This transformation of principles - outlined in TeleTech's story and inspiring others - is the driving force behind TeleTech's unparalleled value system.

TeleTech prides itself with having high caliber people creating a stronger morale and sense of purpose. Their talents continue to provide exceptional customer experiences in the millions they interact with everyday. Mr. Pardo explains that the volume of work is not expected to come in "through the [systems], slowdown means a small slowdown - meaning less customer-

selling - customer-ethic is also the time when companies search for cost-cutting measures such as transferring operations from high-wage areas like the US to low-wage areas such as the Philippines." At last, TeleTech expects to add around 7,000 employees to their workforce, bringing their total Philippine population to a staggering 20,000 by the end of 2009.

Connecting that many employees to millions of customers worldwide requires high and connected by solutions. This is absolutely essential to TeleTech.

Taking the largest call center presence in the Philippines with their 10,000 employees across 12 state-of-the-art delivery centers, TeleTech's operations is wide-spread and far-reaching. The company is not centralized in this city, where communications infrastructure is already in place, but it has built sites in places like Dumaguete and Cebu where non-voice hubs are put in place.

PLDT has the capability, as we can also does, to support TeleTech even to the remotest reaches of the Philippine Islands. Thanks to their domestic fiber-optic network they are uniquely suited to bring exactly the data center TeleTech needs.

Accommodating TeleTech's tremendous expansion is a challenge for PLDT engineering as it is daily. The detailed operating procedures for the industry to the each day or three-to-

opposite corners, in the interests of redundancy. PLDT can draw out cash up with an owned just for TeleTech, creating a ready, diverse and redundant network solution. This works by local infrastructure needs. When the time comes to transfer data internationally, again PLDT provides a two-fold redundant solution where calls are routed to Hawaii and to Armonk.

The services provided by PLDT address not only the issues of redundancy and versatility, but also bandwidth availability. Most circuits provided by PLDT for TeleTech are GB/E in capacity, allowing PLDT to upgrade TeleTech bandwidth at any of their customer-remotely. For example, when TeleTech's Dumaguete city was founded offline by the ravages of Typhoon Frank, it was necessary to transfer over two hundred employees to its facility in Bacolod in order to continue customers. Naturally, it was necessary to upgrade the Bacolod connection to handle the extra load. They requested this to be completed PLDT took care of it the same day.

Network, customer-care and organizational leadership - in all ways TeleTech strives to maximize its people's potentials and functions in sync. And with the help of PLDT, TeleTech will continue their winning corporate philosophy, as all of the Philippines and the rest of the world.

TASTY preparations await customers inside.

RED Ribbon stores now sport that new look within.

A PASTRY display that is definitely out for the weekend.

When success tastes just as

By Carrie Salazar-Mariano

WHAT HAS STARTED AS a hobby by a young housewife way back in the 1970s has now bloomed into a highly successful enterprise whose creamy cakes, delectable pastries and delicious meals have practically become an integral part of every Filipino celebration.

Turning 29 this year, Red Ribbon Bakeshop Inc. now has 280 branches nationwide—the latest of which just opened in Zamboanga City—and 25 in the United States. And as the ones to be going, Red Ribbon stands a good chance of burning its rival in the No. 1 slot in terms of branch network in no time.

Since the Jollibee Group took over Red Ribbon—with about 150 branches then—from its founders, Benny and Tess Alvarez, in 2005, the bakeshop's network has grown by an average of 25 branches a year.

Red Ribbon president Joseph C. Tanbuntiong expects faster growth in the coming years, given the Jollibee Group's all-out support for the bakeshop.

Reinventing itself

The job of keeping Red Ribbon's growth momentum falls in the hands of Tanbuntiong, who joined the bakeshop only last April from sister firm Jollibee Food Corp., and marketing director Albert Cuadrasco, who's new here to Red Ribbon.

Both know that the job on hand calls for much more than just putting up new branches in record time. They know they have to continue reinventing Red Ribbon to keep up with the changing times and requirements of the market, and to stay on top of the traditional values and practices Red Ribbon is known and which are readily available in every branch of the bakeshop.

One new item Red and gold from Red Ribbon Bo types of cakes that, in the past, can only be bought from specialty or independent bakeshops in stores affordable prices and with added services. It offers photo cakes—while you wait (photo to cake used to be ordered days ahead from specialty bakeshops), character cakes, as well as cakes originally designed by the buyers.

TOP names in fashion design, such as Rajo Laurel, go to bare feet with cakes.

FREDERICK Peralta commands a premium with his delectable concoctions.

Innovations

Red Ribbon also has "bold-look" cakes carrying themes of the locality where a branch is situated, such as Muslim-themed cakes in the South. It also creates and adapts to the preferences of the people in the areas it serves.

For instance, certain branches in the United States have loyal Latino customers, which Cuadrasco says, is a fast growing market for Red Ribbon branches in the United States. So they came up with cakes and pastries that these particular customers want, such as the Tres Leches, ube and mango cakes.

ENTICING come-on for the sweet-toothed.

Visual identity

Taking a step ahead, Red Ribbon took into its fold two of the country's top fashion designers—Frederick Peralta and Rajo Laurel—to design beautiful wedding cakes that take inspiration from the latest trends in the wedding fashion world. The two came up with a wide array of wedding cake lineup—from the elaborate for the grandeur weddings to the simplest yet elegant types for simple weddings.

s sweet

One of the many developments that catapulted after the JolliBee Group took over Red Ribbon was the change in the brand's visual identity. Without losing the old charm, the new owner injected to the brand a more contemporary and dynamic look. With this comes the new store look with a more modern, contemporary design that will give customers a delightful dining experience. The change in the store look is ongoing, but the new ones now sport the new look—with the Red Ribbon colors such as chocolate, mocha, mango yellow and also nickel dominating the store.

The Tadmor-Levy Consortium-led team will also pursue the aggressive opening of new stores in the country and overseas. Its five-year thrust outside the United States, according to Tadmor-Levy, will likely be Mexico simply because Mexicans have the same palates as Filipinos.

Branch network expansion can be done by the company itself or through franchising. Of its 300 branches nationwide, about 30 percent are franchise stores. But Red Ribbon is very strict when it comes to choosing its franchisees to ensure that the quality of its products and services will not be compromised.

"They have to meet our capital requirement and they have to have good locations. We check their background, we want to make sure we share the same values and commitment. We make sure they will abide by our standards and support our objectives," Cambronio says.

The Red Ribbon management is involved in every step of the establishment of a franchise store, even in the recruitment of its staff. Once a franchise store is on stream, it has to undergo regular audits by the mother company. Red Ribbon has a scoring system for its franchisees and it rewards with incentives those who do well. For those who don't, corrective actions will be undertaken.

"It is like entering marriage. We don't want to end up in divorce," he adds.

WITHOUT compromising its old charm, the team behind Red Ribbon has injected a more contemporary and dynamic look to the stores.

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an appointment
or an
opportunity?

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Globe's exchange program focuses on youth

By Dickie L. Locsin

WHAT BUSINESS DOES A telecommunications firm have engaging in a corporate social responsibility that is far detached from its main business line?

For Globe Telecom Inc., the benefits of its financial support for the Global Exchange Program (GXP) are not limited solely or even at all to those on long term investment.

Recently, the Ayala-controlled firm strengthened its partnership with international volunteerism and advocacy groups resulting in another successful run of the program, with the stated goal of developing youths into active global citizens.

Now on its fourth year, the GXP volunteer exchange program gives both Filipinos and British youths a unique opportunity to become better global citizens through learning, reflection, volunteerism and community service.

Globe, through its corporate social responsibility program Globe Bridging Communities (Globe BridgeCom), financially supported GXP as a "national backstage" making the company a major partner.

Globe also supported the program by providing 200 cards and lent its volunteers and also by sharing ideas and expertise in community relations during the activity sessions.

International partner managing GXP include Volunteering Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines, VSO Belgium and the British Council.

This year, a team of nine Filipinos and nine British youths were chosen to take part in the Sign-Newham exchange. The volunteers went to the cities of Newham in the United Kingdom and Bijao, the Philippines for three months each, to live and work on global citizenship programs aimed at raising awareness of the development and diversity within their host communities.

According to Globe Communications Relations head Jeffrey Tarayao, the Globe-GXP partnership provided an opportunity for Globe to have a better understanding of young people's perspective of development at both national and international levels.

"For youth, as a very important stakeholder of Globe, must be offered every opportunity that will inspire and enable positive change in their own communities," Tarayao said.

For Globe, these opportunities may be in the form of technology skills development and collaboration—"those very important enablers that GXP offers to achieve partners," he added.

Tarayao said that since youth development is one of Globe BridgeCom's cornerstone corporate social responsibility programs, the partnership with GXP offers the company an important model for engaging and involving young people of even age and race to work together—a crucial template for today's sustainable youth development programs.

GXP also offers an international perspective of development work where other CSR programs of Globe can benefit from," he said.

With the participation of Globe and GXP, the telecommunications firm continues to reinforce the educational thrust of its CSR program, and initiating more youth development programs with GXP that attuned at increasing its positive impact to more young people and communities around the world.

Meanwhile, Globe gave a counterpart donation of P75,000 to complement Global Exchange Programmes Team 7 (1) fund-raising efforts for displaced communities in Leyte del Norte due to the ongoing armed conflict in the region.

By supporting them in this endeavor, "we want to strengthen the volunteers' passion for service and encourage them to be always active and relevant in our community then may be," Tarayao said. "It is reasonable to what GXP is all about."

The chosen coaches for Globe and GXP Team 7 (1) rehabilitation initiative for these communities is Bulay Integrated Relief Mission For Total Human Development Inc. (Bulakbol), a nongovernment organization that specializes in psychosocial intervention to children, women and men survivors of armed conflict and disasters.

Their services include community and individual emotional recovery sessions, community re-education, capability building activities to people's organization, educational assistance and research.

The organization is headed by executive director Cristina Jamoladin, a psychologist by profession and mentor of two of Team 7's volunteers who were placed under her supervision.

This combined donation of P180,000 from Globe and Team 7's of the GXP will specifically be used to fund Bulakbol's ongoing community trauma healing session where emotional recovery experts provide counseling and stress debriefing for members of the communities ravaged by Mayon Volcano's first Fourth ethnic in several municipalities in Lanao del Norte, such as Kolambugan, Munai, Kauswagan, Linamon and Magsaysay.

GX Team 7 (1) program supervisor Joy Ilerd Andrew expressed his optimism that through this donation, Bulakbol and other members of the Philippines Emergency Relief Network who are skilled in emotional recovery and stress debriefing, would continue and step up their "much needed intervention" for these communities.

GXP TEAM 7 in White Island, Camiguin

GXP TEAM 7 (1) visiting a goat farm in Bukidnon and (below) building a pedestrian wall for a child house

do you see a presentation or the big picture?

US charities feel chill from weak economy

KANSAS CITY, Missouri—THE Newhouse shelter in Kansas City has helped thousands of abused women and their children over the past 37 years. But last month, the runners were forced to move out and the staff started looking for new jobs.

The decision was simple. While the need was there, the money was not. Dwindling charitable contributions tied to a broad US economic slowdown means fewer resources and hard choices for charities across the country.

"People are holding tight to their money," said Newhouse president Jodie Ceglian, who estimated donations to contributions were down $200,000 this year compared to last year. That, combined with cuts in government grants, has severely squeezed the center's $1.5 million budget.

"If you're paying $4-a-gallon for gas and $4 for a gallon of milk and you're hearing you possibly are going to be laid off, you just start panicking," Ceglian said of the shelter's donors. "That is what we are seeing."

As Americans struggling with rising unemployment and home foreclosures turn to charities for help, frontline themselves are running into financial difficulties as donations dwindle.

They are being forced to increase their outreach, hold more fund-raising events and work out new donors to make ends meet.

"We're doing a lot of praying in the not-for-profit world," said Judith Mchaffey, executive director of the Chicago Christian Industrial League, which provides job training and shelter for about 600 homeless people annually.

"The people who used to give us small amounts, $10 or $15, they're giving zero," Mchaffey said. "The people who have a lot of money still are able to give, but they are more selective in their giving. It's getting hard out there."

'Can't work with you'

American gave $306 billion to charities last year, up 3.9 percent from 2006, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. But the center's Philanthropic Giving Index, which measures prospects for charitable donations, has dropped to 69 on a scale of 100 from 80 in December 2007, its lowest point since 2000.

Rev. Cecil Williams noticed that donations to Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco began falling off earlier this year, forcing him to cut meals, childcare and healthcare to the poor by up to 15 percent. Meanwhile, the lines for help grew longer.

"We just didn't have chances to upscaling as they usually do," said Williams. "A lot of folks have been affected themselves. We've had to call them, and some people we count on are saying 'we can't work with you anymore.'"

The Salvation Army, which serves tens of millions of needy Americans with its $3.3 billion budget, has seen donations start to decline in the last six to eight months, said spokesperson Melissa Torres.

Consumers are holding the line until winter months, she said.

"It will be really telling to see how Christmas goes," she added.

Roughly two-thirds of individual donations to US charities come from wealthy households, those with at least $100,000 in annual income or $1 million in assets. While those people are generally less affected by the ups and downs in the economy, they suspect a looming charities feeling pinched.

Hundreds of thousands of home foreclosures and lost jobs, along with rising prices for everyday goods, have made the economy a top US election issue, with both Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama pledging to fix the economy.

No volunteers

Melissa Perez of La Habra, California, hosted a Brazilian cultural fair event under the auspices of the Center for Cultural Interchange, a Chicago-based nonprofit that arranges for families to house and feed foreign students.

"Everything's [cut]," said Perez, who cannot afford to do it again this year because her family's immobile housing business is in trouble. "We're very much pinched."

Such experiences mean the Center for Cultural Interchange will not been able to find enough volunteers.

It is not just individuals who are cutting back on giving.

In 2004, US corporations donated an average of 1.3 percent of their pre-tax profits to charity, but that portion has since declined to 0.7 percent, said Mark Shenkey of the Association of Corporate Contribution Professionals.

Among charitable groups feeling the pinch from corporate donors is Catchment-based Bridges for a Better Community, which serves the city's poor. It expected to raise $475,000 from its annual dinner in June, most from its corporate donors, but collected $350,000.

"Businesses is not as good and they feel the pressure and that leads to a decline in giving," said Bridges board member Sanjay Malik.

Bank of America said it intends to donate $1 billion over the next decade, maintaining its current pace regardless profits, but it is targeting investments carefully.

"When the economy is more fragile we have to be more thoughtful about our philanthropy," said Barry Sullivan, of Bank of America's charitable arm.

The next few months will be a barometer of the economy's toll on giving, said Melissa Brennan, president of Rochester Philanthropy Advisors, which helps nonprofit groups.

"How much people give depends on how secure they feel," Brennan said. "I think we'll see an impact on personal giving this fall and winter, which is when most charitable organizations depend on generosity."

Reuters

Biologist pushes memory power

From page B2

FIRST, also offers the Master's Program in which a student is trained to become an "expert" in applying the technique in different areas. The desired course they have is the 30-hour module.

Helping others

While many of those who took Power Memory have shown dramatic improvement in academics, Erato believes "grades only put your feet in."

"Special and leadership skills are also important. What is why I we encourage [students] to be more holistic," he explained.

Jane remembered one student who, according to the parents, used to study the whole day everyday at home. After taking Power Memory, the parents were surprised to see the kid finish reviewing his lessons in 30 minutes.

"He still topped his class," Erato said of the student. "But this time, he had more time to remember and other stuff."

As a way of "giving back" to the community, PMPI has tied up with foundations in giving free Power Memory training to public school students and to juniors of the Ormoc Christian fellowship.

Erato also showed their plan to modify the business from franchising to small licenses, in order to "help others do business by making it (Power Memory) more affordable."

"We want to build a strong learning foundation, and part of it is memory," Ed said.

According to Erato, he devised the technique to help improve education in the Philippines. They are looking forward to impending the business internationally, primarily in the Third World nations.

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- **Ping vs Manny:** style face-off /G1
- **How do you raise** Chris Tiu? /D1

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel
also Thelma Sioson San Juan

How to discover—and relish—Angkor Wat

By Virgil Cabagnot
Contributor

AFTER DECADES OF neglect, the world is rediscovering the glories of the fabled Khmer Empire.

I first visited Siem Reap (pronounced Sim-ree-ap) in December 2006. Since then I have been back four times, and each time the place looks different.

In just those two years, the town has changed unbelievably, turning from a shady, sleepy architectural relic to a modern city of increasing sophistication.

Buildings are sprouting all over. Where once there were none, there are now fourstar cafés and ATM machines and even, thoughtful instance of modern crime—a fruit-food joint.

Air-conditioned malls are being constructed and soon, we are told, the Old Market will be moved to a new (infrequent) outside venue, while the present site is reconverted into a modern retail complex.

The town's hot transformation is fueled by only one thing—tourism.

Last year Siem Reap had created a million visitors; this year that figure is expected to double.

Throughout the world there is remembered interest in Angkor. Why? Well the magnificent structures of the ancient Khmer Empire. These World Heritage sites are clustered around Siem Reap. It is anticipated that in the next decade Siem Reap will become the next major destination in Asia, second only to neighboring Thailand.

In the first half of 2008 (source, Angkor Wat Siem Reap Tourism Office), 1,000 tourists arrived in Siem Reap every day. Of these, 60 percent were from Asia, 30 percent from Europe and 10 percent from the Americas. Australia and New Zealand also have a significant number of visitors.

Most visitors fly to the capital, stay there for a couple of days, then join fellow tourists on the boat to Siem Reap. It's a six-hour journey on the Tonle Sap River (which runs into Tonle Sap Lake once Siem Reap), but it's an adventure worth experiencing at least once, and a good introduction to Cambodia's lush countryside.

To relieve the tedium of the trip, many passengers clamber up on the roof to sit in the sunlight. (The trip runs off-and-on during the rainy season, when the roads close to the scenic river to the four grass pure villages, rice fields and patches of lush tropical growth.

If you leave the mundane and perilous for a long boat, take the bus from Bangkok to Siem Reap, which costs only $10 per person.

Leaving Bangkok early in the morning, a four-hour drive on a big air-conditioned bus will take you to the last stops on the Thai side.

From there, take a taxi out to the border itself, go through Thai immigration, after which you walk through a concentration of souvenir stalls, a modern sight, like a mini

(CONTINUED)

Ready to indulge?

On October 3, 4 and 5, be ready to indulge as the year's most lavish shopping event comes to The Podium. Grab yourself from head to toe in the season's latest from the most fashionable shops. Make sure you have the latest gadgets. Dine on the most delectable treats. And to make it all sweeter, you can enjoy great deals and discounts of up to 70% off on selected items mallwide.

So, mark your calendars and prepare for the ultimate in shopping indulgence. This 3-day sale is one that should not be missed.

This Weekend at The Atrium

Encore
October 3, 6pm
Mankati Palazzo Fashion Show

Kuh Ledesma
October 4, 6pm

Bossi Valdez
October 5, 6pm

Swingfest at Piazza Musica
October 3, 1pm to 10pm
Featuring: Spaceflower Show, Manila Paris Confidential and Brass Monkeys.

Mall Hours

October 3 & 4
10am to 11pm

October 5
10am to 10pm

How to discover—and relish—Angkor Wat

From page C1

Las Vegas in the dusty tropics.

After completing the formalities at Cambodia Immigration, you step into Cambodia (currency, where another bus will take you to Siem Reap. You should hit town by late afternoon or early evening.

There are other possible routes—via Hanoi or Saigon, Kuala Lumpur and even Singapore, both on regular airlines like Philippine Airlines and on budget carriers such as Air Asia and Tiger Airways. Check out their websites for flight details.

(Overseas Cultural & Travel Specialist Services, tel. 8207487 or 93553660, handles tours to Cambodia and other Southeast Asian destinations.)

Moving around town

Siem Reap is quite small, with the area around the Old Market (Psar Chas) as the sole hub of activity. Escape when they get out of town to archeological sites, visitors hardly ever venture from the area demarcated by Sivutha Boulevard, Pokambor Avenue and National Road No 6.

Sivutha Boulevard is the town's main road, lined on both sides with shops and commercial establishments.

Following the wooded banks of Siem Reap River, Pokambor Avenue, which becomes Charles de Gaulle Boulevard after it crosses National Road No. 6, goes past five major landmarks of the city—the Old Market, Le Royal Residence (quite modest, nothing imposing), the lovely Royal Gardens, the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor (this looks more palatial than the actual Royal Residence), and the radiant National Angkor Museum.

National Road No. 6, also known as Airport Road, leads to Siem Reap International Airport and to where many of the big brand-name hotels are located. It might be helpful to note that the new Angkor International Hospital and smaller clinics catering to foreigners are on this road.

The town sprawls out on the eastern side of the river, but these are residential and non-shopping areas where mostly local folk go. There is a big Dodgeville-like market to the west and, further afield, a kind of pre-job park. It's actually just an open field where locals come to enjoy the evening, armed on rented mats spread on the ground, drinking beer and eating barbecue, fried fare, they have baked and all sorts of snacks in moveable stalls.

There are no trains to Siem Reap, but a ton of taxis with drivers vie for several on a daily basis. On our first visit we hired a van for two days, costing only $30-$40 per day.

Later we found out a far better alternative is to have a tuk-tuk. Her only is it cheap, at $12/$13 for a whole day; $2 for short rides around town; but it's actually more fun.

Unlike our tricycles, which are supremely unsustainable, Cambodian tuk-tuks have the motorbike and driver out front, pulling the cab along. It's like riding a horse carriage. "I feel like Prince Philip," Pete said, as are grounded in stately fashion along the tree-lined roads of the Angkor Archeological Park.

Now, if you're traveling on a shoestring, a moto would be a great alternative mode of transport. A moto, short for motorcycle or motorbike, is exactly just that...a motorbike that takes a passenger on the back seat for $1 a ride. No need for a helmet and other safety measures. Just jump on the seat and cling your arms around the driver. Don't ask me what happens when it rains.

What to see

One of mankind's greatest achievements, Angkor Wat marks the pinnacle of ancient Khmer civilization. It is for this world-renowned artistic and architectural masterpiece that most visitors come to Siem Reap, and as such it's easy to see for all must-visit places. It reminds from across the hype, and takes your breath away each time you see these five majestic towers-shaped towers.

Inside are walls and walls of superb bas-relief depicting epic battles from the Ramayana and other local myths and episodes in Hindu-Buddhist mythology, including the oft replicated and reproduced churning of the sea of Milk, a cosmic tug-of-war between gods and demons.

Angkor Wat, according to historians and scholars, took 30 years to construct. It was built in the reign of Suryavarman II (1113-1150 AD).

It marks the zenith of Khmer civilization, though the golden age of temple building came later, under Jayavarman VII (1181-1220 AD), who, as it makes up for the fact that he didn't build Angkor Wat, launched a construction frenzy that saw the completion of Angkor Thom (or walled city which contains the former of the Lepe King), Bayon (his royal temple), Ta Prohm (dedicated to his mother), Preah Khan (dedicated to his father), and innumerable hospitals and rest houses for the poor.

All these places are set with striking, picturesque Angkor Thom. It gives you a sense of what it might have been like to live at the time; Bayon (famous for the gigantic four-faced towers) the four-sculpted pictures; and Ta Prohm, where the ruins are being swamped by the roots of gigantic trees that still life in a possible (but NO the best one).

Located outside the Angkor Thom Angkor

CURIOUS monks stop to chat with a photographer at the Bayon.

AS IT'S meant portrait graphically, a Strangling Pig statuette itself in three voices at Ta Prohm in a writhing stranglehold. Ta Prohm gained more fame when it was used as the set for the "Lara Croft" movie starring Angelina Jolie.

TEMPLES like this at Banteay are treasures of early Khmer civilization.

BEAUTIFUL oriental maidens called apsaras populate the Hindu-Buddhist heaven, as depicted in Angkor Wat and other Khmer temples.

SPINNING silk at the Angkor Silk Farm.

A RICKSHAW ride on alley around Pub Street shows clear French colonial influence.

A HANDOUT holds the petals of lotuses to make them suitable as offerings to the Buddha.

TYPICAL scene at the Old Market

Theam complex, the exquisite Banteay Srei, with its profusion of delicate carvings, is well worth a visit, and so is the pyramidal Prasat Ta Keo.

Angkor Thom was sacked in 1432 by invading armies from Siam (Siem Reap actually means Siam Defeated, referring to an earlier Khmer victory), and while the city grew never again fully recovered, though the Khmer kingdom endured until the end of the 18th century.

All these sites mentioned above are located within the Angkor Archeological Park, also known as Angkor National Park. A one-day pass is available, but this is hardly enough to cover all major sights; a much better deal is one buy a two-day or three-day pass, which allows you explore the sites at leisurely pace.

After temple overdose

The temples are magnificent, but after a while it is possible to suffer from temple overdose. If and when that happens, head for the Old Market and lose yourself in the maze of stalls selling traditional Cambodian arts and crafts—silk, wood and stone carvings, and silverware.

It's a fascinating experience, and bargaining is part of the fun. You can indulge in some serious retail therapy here, but be ladies, and they don't seem to mind if you don't buy in the end.

The Central Market is not far from the Old Market, but it's new and less interesting. After dusk, the Night Market gets its share of tourists and hawkers, though it's somewhat lacking in local flavor and was obviously set up for tourists.

A morning excursion on the Tonle Sap Lake is another viable option when you've had too much temple-trekking. This body of water is so huge that you can't see the shores when you're somewhere in the middle. Floating villages on stilts along the shore as well as on huts floating on the water. You can either pay the official rate of $12 per head for a half-day tour or do your own negotiations with a local operator.

To get to the lake, hire a tuk-tuk in town, but negotiate the price with the driver beforehand. If he puts you somewhere you might want to take arrange for a return journey).

If you're interested in finding out how silk is produced and woven, set aside half a day for a visit to the Angkor Silk Farm, some 15 km west of the town proper. The extensive old estate was all but lost during the troubled years under the Khmer Rouge but is undergoing a revival.

For decades there was no sericulture in the surrounding area of mulberry that have survived from the ancient Khmer civilization. Prized for their nobility and delicate, Khmer sculptures have been a much sought after luxury in an illegal international trade, often ending up in private collections in Europe and the United States.

Happily the newly constructed National Angkor Museum will set out to rectify this problem, with its state-of-the-art storage and display facilities. Using easy-to-follow visual aids and high-tech exhibition methods, the museum offers plenty to interest the visitor, including an awe-inspiring room containing 1,000 Buddha statues. A visit to Siem Reap would not be complete without a visit to the museum.

To get the full flavor of your encounters with ancient Khmer civilization, you might want to hire a licensed tour guide. These can be identified on the spot by their red-brown-brown trousers, beige shirt and name badge. Guides are available for virtually any of the world's major languages, and you can easily hire one through your hotel or guesthouse. The going rate was $25 for a whole day most often a year ago, so it's likely that has increased since then.

Regular guided tours are also conducted by Virgo Travel, but this group of young Pil-

HOW TO C2

How to discover—and relish—Angkor Wat

Viewpage C2

THE POOL AT Amansara. The rooms are in the building behind, formerly the guesthouse of the former King Norodom Sihanouk.

known, among them Gaby Pascuzzo and Arsenio Rivera, often accompanied by a building boom in recent years, headed to large part by Roman Arimbay. Some of the huge hotels on the Airport Road are here to stay.

Where to stay

The hotel industry in Siem Reap has witnessed a building boom in recent years, headed to large part by Roman Arimbay. Some of the huge hotels on the Airport Road are here to stay.

A very reliable choice on the road to the comfortable Mercure Angkor Hotel (www.mercure.com), managed by Accor Hotels, a Filipino, the only woman GM in the hotel industry in Cambodia. Inside has a way of putting people at ease, and under her supervision the hotel staff is consistently helpful and friendly toward guests.

Slightly off the main drag is the Angkor Palace Resort & Spa (www.angkorpalaceresort.com), set amid sprawling gardens.

If you have money to spare, the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor (www.raffles.com), part of the renowned Raffles chain) and Amansara (www.amansara.com, of the equally famed Aman group) are delicious choices, but the pleasure of staying in either place comes with a steep price—$350-$400 for the cheapest single in the Raffles and $700 in Amansara.

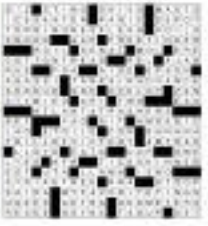
I have stayed at the Raffles and can certainly say that it lives up to its billing as a grand hotel. Everything is orchestrated to make you feel like you have stepped back in the time when travel is still a place was an exclusive privilege of the rich. One almost expects the bellboy to pull out Louis Vuitton trunks and valises from the uniform cage elevator.

Other five-star hotels include the Intrid Angkor Photorelais Golf & Spa Hotel (www.intridhotel.com), Sofitel Angkor Resort & Spa (www.sofitelcambodia.com), La Residence d'Angkor (www.residencedangkor.com) and Le Meridien Angkor (www.lemeridienangkor.com/angkor).

Next Sunday: Exact homes and hotels, what and where to eat

THE STATELY Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor as seen through the lovely European-style Royal Garden.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Travel Briefs

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

How do you raise a Chris Tiu?

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gabaldon

TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD CHRISTOPHER Tiu stands out not only in sports, but in academics, too. In 2007, he graduated cum laude with Management Engineering degree from the Ateneo de Manila University. He is taking a second course in Applied Mathematics and Finance.

Despite his success and fame, he's unassuming down to earth and humble. How does one raise a young man like him?

In an interview his parents, Jerry and Lisanne, gave us some inspiring insights on parenting. I am underwhelmed and appreciative here. Chris has grown up to be the highly successful yet grounded and admirable young man.

Energetic

His mother says Chris has always had a boundless energy. At 5, he enjoyed climbing the door frame of his parents' bathroom with his feet braced and feet, like a little Spiderman. His rush-wild Christmas cakers were also framed very early in life.

"When he was 11, he joined the school team representing the country in a basketball tournament in Las Vegas. While the boys were quartered in a motel, one of them accidentally went to an X-rated channel. The next day the coach found out about it and was so angry. As punishment, the kids were asked to pay for the charged TV show," Lisanne recalled.

"Chris approached me and said that he would not pay for it. I told him it was only fair that all of them paid equally since they all watched. I later found out that he really did not join the group in watch, since he watched his flack on the TV and prayed the rosary!"

Being different from his peers in a way made him the object of bullying. But prove-loving that he was, Chris' basic way to run away to him as he could, instead of fighting back, until the bullies would no longer catch him.

In a separate interview, Chris said that in the Tiu household, there were no boxes for studying, playing, watching TV and playing computer games.

"My parents really instilled in all of us the value of studying and hard work. They would push us to do our best, and as long as they knew we did our best, that would be enough."

Lisanne said that for Jerry and her, the others started were always more important than the result. Chris added that there were many other helping their self-confidence.

"We would still have rulers, but she was always there ready to help us, especially in Chinese. She would really take time out to sit down and help us with our lessons."

Blessed

One of the striking things Chris told me was how he felt so blessed to have parents who genuinely love each other. To this day, he still sees them showing affection toward one another; he is in no more of love they truly love each other.

"My parents walk their talk. They have shown us kids by example what love is and what good, done living and hard work is all about. They really take care of each other," he said.

It is certainly true what they say—the best gift a mom can give his children is to love their mother, and vice versa.

Lisanne told me it has always been important for her and Jerry to make sure the children feel that they love each other.

"I pray a lot for the children. I give a lot of importance in raising them to be men and women of faith, competence and values. For example, I encourage them to receive the sacrament of Confession and we go to Sunday Mass together. I try my best to control the TV shows they watch to make sure they are wholesome. I try to find varied, fun, moral reading materials at home. I don't give them much money, and I try not to spoil them with material goods. I guess they are tired of hearing my advice. If you don't need them, don't hear."

Grounded

Considering all the good things that have come his way, it amazes me how Chris remains grounded in a world where fame, power and fortune can easily corrupt men of lesser fiber.

I asked Lisanne why she thought Chris has remained grounded.

"I think he has taken our advice to heart, including we tell our children all the time: Much is given to you, much will be asked of you. Hear God." He try to remind him to thank God for all his talents and gifts for selfless Him, to use do nothing) and to enjoy Him by loving Him and helping others."

While media, fans and the hounds he endures bedding him with attention, praise and unmerited things, sometimes they worry for him. Wherever, the end Jerry continue to remind him that Jesus is Having.

"He always tell him that value is important is not the applause of people but the approval of God. Even if he scores high in his studies or in sports, but is not at peace with our Lord, then his efforts are wasted. On the other hand, he may perform poorly in whatever activity, but if he is at a state of grace and it is offered to God, then he will always come out a winner 'in God's eyes.'"

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

As the group accidentally tuned in to an X-rated show, he turned his back—and prayed the rosary

THE Tiu family at home

Be informed.

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Lessons from a wedding

Liezl and Steve Picazo's what-date last year showed that simple, straight-from-the-heart details make weddings work.

THE BRIDE forgave a quiet the veil over her face before she walks down the aisle.

THE COUPLE with maid-of-honor Sandee Co and best man Carlo Rosales

By Lara Angela Tiotuico
Contributor

WHAT MAKES A wedding memorable?

A fabulous designer gown for the bride? A far-spanned honeymoon? A spectacular reception? A jewel-encrusted cake?

If you asked Liezl and Steve Picazo, it would be none of the above. Small yet, many of the guests at their wedding a year ago will count it as one of the most beautiful, heartwarming, fun and relaxing they had ever been to.

When Liezl and Steve started planning their wedding, they agreed on the mood they wanted to achieve—light and fun—and ditched out the details from there. They were determined to make their special day memorable and enjoyable for everyone. The color theme (teal, cream, and chocolate) for the groom, was chosen for its cool tones.

Rather than hire a full-time coordinator, Liezl and Steve planned and worked on the details of the wedding themselves.

They called in a coordinator only for the day itself, and only to make sure all the systems they had put in place ran like clockwork.

Steve was beaming as he waited for his bride and greeted guests at the entrance to the Archbishop's Palace chapel in Mandaluyong City. Many of them commented that they had never seen a happier groom.

Liezl came to her wedding in a friend's white Mini Cooper driven by her father, lawyer Antonio Pontevilla. It was a "cute" touch, people said, but also a timely message about human ecology. (Steve would have rather asked for the drive to the chapel, but Liezl's father, a former Dangerous Driver, nixed the idea.)

THE NEWLYWEDS with the groom's family

Inside the chapel, as Liezl took her place next Steve before the altar, she sang along with the choir to the Mass' entrance song. The ceremony started, and Liezl has long been one of the gifted sopranos.

For their officiating priest, Liezl and Steve had only one person in mind—Fr. Joe Villasis, 53, president of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro. Besides being a distant cousin of Steve's, he was also a favorite Mass celebrant of Liezl's when she was a college student at the Ateneo and a member of the Ateneo Campus Ministry Group's choir.

Many to know the couple well, Father Joe's homily was tailor-made for them.

"There's joy in the steady," he told Liezl and Steve, reminding them to continue enjoying all the things they liked to do together, but also "joy in the incomplete," emphasizing that they did not always have to be together for one to complete the other.

The principal sponsors were all handpicked by only one person—their close personal friend the Bishop of the groom, as is both of them. They had either seen Steve or Liezl grow to adulthood, and/or witnessed the unfolding of their love story, which began at Ateneo Grade School where they both worked for some time.

At the offertory program, Liezl sprung two surprises on Steve. The first was a solo number, "I'm Gonna" by Vince Gill, and after removal, a 10-min-ute speech delivered in Waray, which was a tribute as well to her own homesick family, particularly Steve's parents, Emilio and Leah Picazo.

Unknown to Steve, Liezl had completed with a friend of his to translate her English into Waray, and with her sister Kathleen to prompt her in case she fumbled.

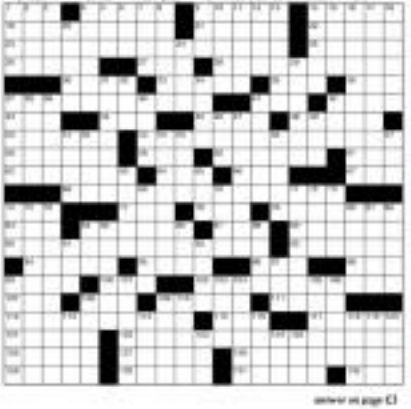
So, what makes a wedding memorable and beautiful?

Light and fun moments, certainly, but also, as the young Picazos have discovered, simple gestures that come straight from the heart.

THE BRIDE'S family

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — TIN LINE



answer on page C1

Week Pitch Grill and Country Club for the reception.)

A stylish but sensible dresser, Liezl had a dream design for her gown—lace for the bodice and long sleeves, a billowy skirt, no train, as long veil.

To execute it, she asked a Laguna-based dressmaker who had earlier done her friend's wedding gown.

The bridal bouquet of white sinegwelas and roses and the bouquets of all the female members of the entourage, as well as the flowers for the chapel, were arranged by a vendor at the

THE GROOM'S friends from San Miguel Corporation

THE GROOM'S cousins

Growing up on family meals

See what a difference sharing a meal with your children makes. Lucky Me! launches National Famealy Day on September 22.

I've been linked to better grades in school, healthy eating habits, richer language and communication skills, ties to my roots, and closer ties with one's family heritage, among other long-term benefits. Best of all, it doesn't take much time or effort to do. "It" is the simply act of eating together as a family.

Which any meal can feed the body, meals shared between parents and their children on a regular basis have proven to nourish the heart, mind, and soul. Researchers at Columbia University, in fact, consider dinner the best and perfect time to connect with family. But according to psychologist Aileen Sison, any meal shared with the loved one makes a huge difference.

"When I teach courses like developmental psychology or family psychology, I ask students, 'What is one of the most significant experiences that you remember with your family?' they usually answer 'Eating with them.' It's not eating in a fancy place, but just eating and being together. Even when one of the parents is working abroad, that's what they remember."

Sison suggests starting the ritual of eating as a family while the kids are still young, and creating a positive atmosphere at the dining table. "Avoid talking about your exes problems with your spouse ever much when your children are there, or of talking about problems cannot be helped, make sure your children can see and hear how you and your spouse are able to resolve it. Also, encourage your kids to share their thoughts. For adolescents, eating dinner together for a meal can't be forced, or else you'll defeat the purpose of trying to connect with them."

To better appreciate the power and importance of this tradition, a few personalities share their views on and experiences of family meals.

Advertising executives Ana and Mike Jimenez may have quirked work schedules but they make sure to have at least one quality meal every week with daughters Kassie and Abby.

Mon and Abby Jimenez

Family meals taught Abby to "become aggressive yet gentle. Aggressive because we are relatively a big family, and you have to have a big, loud voice in order to be heard, and gentle because being the oldest, I was careful and to dominate the other siblings." Growing up, her mom also stressed "Do not bite off more than you can chew' which was a precursor to 'always finish what you've started.'

Mon, in the meantime, considers meals as "symbolic of the sharing and togetherness that should mark all family gatherings." Growing up on three, he developed "a willingness to exchange views, to share and, above all, maintain good humor always."

Regular family meals, therefore, keep the couple behind the thriving advertising agency Jimenez Basic right with their two grown daughters. "Even if they're so busy, we make sure to have at least one quality meal every week, maybe food and conversation," says Abby. The active exchange of views and humor are always part of our get-togethers, which we try to do as often as practically possible. If our children can't get to us, we go to them," adds Mon.

Ardy Roberto

Sunday lunches with his dad, Dr. Ned Roberto, mom, and three sisters were a sacred occasion in their household says Ardy. These lunches gave them the opportunity to talk about what's been happening at each other's lives and at the same time pick up valuable lessons. He recounts one such life-changing lesson.

"One Sunday, Dad, a full-time professor, shared that he had received an offer to be an executive at a multinational company. At 40ish, I imagined how Dad's new job would finally replace the smiling family car we had. But just as Dad, that image included self when Dad said '. . . and after thinking about it, I decided to turn down the offer.'"

What?! How could he turn down a prestigious position in a large company that would pay five times more than his salary as a professor? With hurried eyebrows, I asked, "Dad, why didn't you accept the job?"

"...Because I am a teacher. I am not a manager. I teach – that's what I love to do. That's what I was designed for."

Pride and respect for my Dad replaced my disappointment and confusion. Replacing our meaty old car did not matter that much anymore."

Today, Ardy, a best-selling author, award-winning entrepreneur, Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist, and Chief Encouragement Officer of Ink & Light Ventures, a company that publishes books and organizes inspirational learning events, has already implemented the mealtime tradition with his own family. "My wife Tingting and I try to have lunch everyday with our son Joshua, who's just 9 months old," he says. His goddaughter, the 9-year-old Chiara, whom he and Tingting took care of for the first 5 years of her life, may be in the States right now, but that doesn't mean she and her friend Dad can't share a meal together. "Her favorite is Lucky Me! and she always asks me to send her some because she doesn't like the noodles in the States," chuckles Ardy. "Whenever she's here, Chiara and I would always share a Lucky Me! at least once or twice a week. She loves it with fried chicken wings or pizza."

Ardy and wife Tingting took care of goddaughter Chiara until she was 5 years old. She lives in the US now but whenever she visits, the foster mom and dad always set out their favorite dishes with her.

Nanay Socorro Ramos

Growing up with five brothers and sisters and hardly anything to eat ("We were grateful if there was something to eat on the table") found Nanay Socorro's resolve "to work very hard so that I will not be hungry again".

Years later, the lady behind the mega-successful National Book Store chain imparts "the value of hard work, integrity, and perseverance" to her three children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, appropriately during dinner time. "That's when we discuss problems and solutions to the problems," says Nanay Socorro, who adds with a soft chuckle, "I feel they are more receptive to my advice on a full stomach."

Having a lot of siblings and hardly anything to eat taught Nanay Socorro not only the value of sharing, but also of hard work and perseverance. Now Nanay Socorro delights her children and grandchildren whenever they drop in family meals together.

Ballsy Aquino-Cruz

Ironically, it was while her father was incarcerated during the Martial Law years that Ballsy, eldest daughter of the late Ninoy and former President Cory, and her siblings felt "closer as a family." The Aquinos, who were allowed to visit Ninoy in jail thrice weekly, shared meals with the late Senator and even enjoyed home-lunches prepared by him. "That was when we became closer to him and him with us," says Ballsy. "Even if he hadn't met our friends, it was as if he'd known them for a long time because of our stories. Everyone listened to everyone else. There was freedom of speech in our family."

Today, dinners with her own family are long, leisurely affairs, with spirited discussions extending hours after meals were served. "We're always fighting for an issue," she says with a laugh. "And current events are always part of our conversation. We don't always agree with each other, but we all believe in democracy."

Lucky Me!

Famealy Day

Together on Family Promise Weekdays

Make it a date with your family!

Through the years, Lucky Me! has transformed a noodle brand to a partner in Filipino family and the various moments of bonding throughout the journey, with presence in over 90% of households. With such warm sentiment, Lucky Me! would like to give back. The brand seeks to be of greater service to the consumers by launching Kulong Pamilya Mahalaga, an advocacy campaign that aims for the betterment of the Filipino community through strengthening its most basic unit: the family.

This October 2007, Lucky Me! has employed various means to raise awareness on the benefits of family meals ranging from television commercials to print ads, from school clinics to retail kiosks.

Lucky Me! encourages families all over the country to start the habit of eating together tomorrow, September 22, and every 4th Monday of September thereafter, to share a meal and some stories in celebration of **National Famealy Day – Pagkilala sa Kainang Pambuo Mahalaga**, which aims to

She's happily married but can't forget her ex-boyfriend

DEAR EMILY,

Thirteen years ago, I met my first boyfriend. I fell in love with him right away. After a year, he told me his ex-girlfriend was coming back home from the United States. He didn't tell me then more together again, and I felt really hurt. I didn't have anything else from him. I left the country so he could realize if it was her or me that he loved.

I came back after a few months and I felt that everything between us had changed. I was no least that I thought I couldn't handle it. I couldn't afford to share him with anyone, so I left for the US hoping I would eventually forget him.

Then I met my husband, who is such a good man. We now have two children. We have a very comfortable lifestyle.

I love my family very much. In spite of that, I still think about my ex.

My mind tells me I should forget him, but my heart says it. I hate myself for hearing this kind of feeling and I am not sure why.

I always tell myself to suicide my wheels call to my husband. I will never leave my husband for I love him, too. I really want to forget my ex but I don't know how.

Recently, we met again. This time, with my husband and his wife. I told myself everything was okay now. But it isn't. I still have the feelings I've felt for him for

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcos

Be careful what you pray for—as you just might get it

more than 14 years now.

LONELY

This ex-boyfriend has plagued you for over 13 years and doesn't see letting go from your end? You're still giving him hope, body and soul!

This is a clear violation of your marriage vows, not to be grossly cute about it, and known only to you and your creator. Though you haven't cheated on your husband in deed, it is still a clear case of cheating.

So, would it make you feel any better to just consummate an affair with this ex and get this anxiety over and done with, sort of your system?

There was no closure to your relationship and that's what's bugging you.

He neither moved up in loving his ex girlfriend more and you less, or vice versa. Like a nagging, pesky bastard, you obviously want to know the truth. But even if he told you he loved his girlfriend more, there's something in your mind that won't believe him.

You'd think he is just making it easy for you to forget him. Whatever happens will be a lose-lose situation for everyone involved, honey.

Be careful what you pray for—as you just might get it! The heavens could deal you a vicious card where you'd lose your husband and your sons. Enviable life in one blow—and then what?

Will this ex come to your rescue and sweep you off in his shining armor? Have you asked yourself if he cares and suffers for you, too? You could just have been a diversion while waiting for his girlfriend, those fateful days of meeting you 14 years ago. If he really honestly cared for and loved you as you are loving him today, the past/break he will not make an effort to see you, come what may!

It's apparent that this relationship has been a one-way ride all along, and there's only been one side lonely traveler—you! Front your experience, has it been fun or all?

E-mail the author at emarcos@inquirer.com.ph, hchat.ch@yhc, or send your letters to Inquirer, Ing cor to west gbs gov.ph and listen to *Mr. Marcos co-host* the program "Kaibigan Tigilan," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, on dwBD 104.3 FM.)

The Legend Villas as a place for celebrated occasions

We are appreciating the season of heightened festivity for families and other close groups that resemble a second family. Wouldn't long gone acquaintances and relatives gathering be more than ensuring? Wanting this to happen as fast and as often is no strange.

Couples and community have always been part our lives. Those are the times when we relax from our daily busy routine and take time to enjoy the company of the special ones we treasure dearly. These occasions are spotted as birthday, wedding, anniversary concepts. And to help you make things extra special in The Legend Villas through their Socials Packages.

The Legend Villas brings the celebration closer to the hearts of the guests friendly and figure-friendly Dining situated at the central business district of Mandaluyong, (8) Function center Maldive (Exotic) makes it accessible and easy to most key areas in the district. On the other hand, the place together with all it classical features evoke warm emotion which will make you to further appreciate the people, the occasion and the place better.

Good thing that the Hispanic place's offerings are budget friendly. They take service off you while you wait for exceptional memories to take place right in front of your eyes, felt with the heart and understood by the soul. The Legend Villas knows how important each occasion is for you and your loved ones. Remembering they are having the gathering for you to make every occasion worthy of a lifetime memory.

The Legend Villas' event team is ready to help all these and more with you, especially at this time when we already anticipate the festive months of the year. For inquiries, call 6351107 - 13 or visit www.legendvillas.com.ph

Silver event for breast cancer survivors

Celebrities unite with the breast cancer community in Silver Linings 2008

By Carla Paras-Sison
Contributor

CELEBRITIES RECENTLY joined over a thousand breast cancer survivors, supporters and friends at an event called Silver Linings 2008 in Mandaluyong. Hosted by Lizbag, Cebu City Silver Linings is the only national homecoming cum educational forum for breast cancer survivors in the country. A project of iCanServe Foundation, it aims to give hope and information to breast cancer survivors.

Singer and stage actress Pinky Marquez hosted the event, while volunteer doctors, news and entertainment personalities and performers showed their support through a whole-day program that started in patterns and those reclaiming their lives after their bout with cancer.

Aside from Marquez, volunteer moderators for break-out sessions included actor Gabby de la Merced, actresses and breast cancer survivors Melissa de Leon and Marisol Fernandez, columnist Marivel Lava, ABC news anchor Tetish Macaraeg, broadcast journalist Karen Davila, and radio personality Jude Sanchez.

The San Diego Dancers of Cebu performed the finale for the opening plenary, and singers Basil Trejo and Hiroshi Fernandez performed during the closing ceremony.

Participants from breast cancer support groups all over the country brought their spouses, children and caregivers to learn the latest in breast care health and how best to self-help.

Survivors came from Cebu, Metro Manila, Baguio, Benguet province, Olongapo, Iloilo, Bohol, Bacolod, Iloilo, Antique, Tacloban, Roxas, Tagum, Davao, Cagayan de Oro.

New friendships

Philippine Cancer Society executive director Dr. Rolly Salvador lauded iCanServe Foundation for organizing Silver Linings and inspiring volunteers to run it.

"You should do this more often, not just once every three years," he told iCanServe founding president Ria's Mikpela.

The first Silver Linings was held in 2003 in Mandaluyong City and attracted over 1,000 participants.

In her opening remarks, Allipala said, "Hope can't find a more hospitable home than the heart and soul of a breast cancer survivor... We gather together for Silver Linings because it is the only reunion we know where everyone rebuilds experienced the worst has seen the best."

Silver Linings chair Ma'mour Solomon added, "With your learnings and new friendships forged at the end of the day, you would have found your Silver Linings."

The G-Network provided participants with free bone density and fasting blood sugar examinations, while the Philippine Medical Society of Oncologists conducted an all-day free clinical breast examination, consultation and breast-care tips led by Dr. Dennis Tuzlaci.

Silver Linings 2008 was made possible by Manerbrant Cebu City Hotel and Casino, G-Network, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Peg-Hog Feed, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Cebu Daily News and ABS-CBN Corp.

Release more, visit www.icanserve.net.

BROADCAST journalist Karen Davila

BETJAN Escalona and Marissa Fernandez

BERNIE Abadia and Dr. Mila Talandron

Singer Basil Trejo and Hiroshi Fernandez spoke to join ing

MARCEL Luisa Pengilinan

ALICE San Juan, Dr. Nona Cavanilag and Carla Sison

BROADCAST journalist Tetish Macaraeg

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- Myrna Casandig, Ilocos Sur - Sept. 19, 2008

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

Larry's last legacy: a farm spa in the north /D5

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F&C JEWELRY

How to be the belle of the wedding ball

WEDDINGS ARE MY FAVORITE SOCIAL occasion. There are the greatest transformations here, complete with drama, suspense and romance; all in one very special evening.

My own wedding was celebrated 24 years ago, but I still remember clearly about that special day like any bride, I wanted my wedding to be unique, perhaps with Bana-eaters or something to add to our modern tribesmen. And like most couples, our day turned out beautifully, with Dennis and I having our dream wedding.

Nowadays the most difficult part about getting married, aside from finding the perfect spouse, is choosing from the limitless options—from gowns to videos, etc., etc. A couple's first real challenge is to survive all the arguments, manage all the finances and somehow still show up at the altar.

The Internet sure source for bridal advice is WeddingBells. Recently launched at Blue Leaf Pavilion in Pembrico Global City, the magazine is hip but with a classic taste—covering all the areas a couple needs to pull off the event.

At the flower-adorned venue, courtesy of Heather Hegenis Flowers, guests were welcomed with Rose Bubbly wine and champagne, and delicious food by JS Gastro. Global Brew Exchange had an overflowing open bar of Becker's, Arctic Vodka and Belgian beers, while those with sugar cravings indulged in confections from Mario's Cakes. Other sponsors were event stylist Henry Pascual, Hiram's and Jewelsbride.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The most difficult part about getting married, aside from finding the perfect spouse, is choosing from the limitless options

Publishers Manolo Arcamera and Pilar Tuason, also a renowned photographer, are the hosts of Wedding Bells, the second title of Bella Luxe Publications. Digital Photographer

NEWS E2

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Go and check out Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleanser in its fresh, new look at all leading drugstores, supermarkets and health and beauty stores nationwide.
When it comes to skin care, it's Cetaphil pure.

NEWLYWEDS Lesley and Joel Santos with parents Ronnie and Annie Aquino and Ofie and Jenny Santos

ASSUMPTION HS '81 at Asadal Restaurant. Janine Cosme-Claris, Popoie Gamboa, Tessa Abrahgan, Lorni Hupa, Emilia Pamocoli, Joji Dagpulan, Eva Princess, Tady Almeda Lopez-Lory, Annabelle Santos, Lisa Bautista, Bobot Evans-Cleto, Singking Dagpulan

SEA Princess, Metro Club's Nick Gotan, Makati Red Cross directors John Tiong, Geraldine Regullo, Elmer Espiritu, Marnie Ballos and Rally Evangelista, FPT founder Alan Evasco and Popoie Gamboa

"CELEBRITY Duets" Irene Ogle Alvarez and Regine Velasquez

MUSICAL newlyweds Raul Mora and Cecil Velasquez

How to be the belle of the wedding ball

From page F1

WEDDING photographers on exhibit: Marvin Galasco, Inquirer's Chito Vesina, Edwin Tayag, Robert Garcia, (standing) Jun Garcia, Madge Lejano, Vietnamese Ambassador Ye Xuan Truong, Inquirer's Jamie Jamilarro and Andy Sumaoang

BEAUTIFUL ladies Dr. Vicki Belo, Gilda Radis, Darling de Jesus and Shirley Xuan

ENTGMA Entertainment Wilma Galvante, Daiwa Eugenio, Darling de Jesus and Ailed Prieto

TOP 10 players Kara del Rosario, grand champion Bonnie Gre. Torres, Chris Tan, John Estrada, Priscilla Meirelles and Metro Card Club owner Neil Arce

GOOD friends Ida Hinsarm, Hayden Kho and Bonnie Honores

SEXY star Angelica Jones and friend Carol Porcalme with Pagcor Philweb ladies

ASSUMPTION Poker ladies Popoie Gamboa, Jenaire San Miguel, Chapel Mangilin, Tea Princess, Qirie Sison and Minnie Campos

FAMILY players Jose M. Lizares, Manny Tanjangco, Frankie and Isabel Benavidez

TOUR and beauties Mark Mead, Clarissa Sicsic, Anna Co-Unjieng and Priscilla Meirelles

MIKO Paluma, Paolo Avelenda, Maria and Dino Arevalo, David Licauco

CAT Arevalo, Kat Ramos-Sasot, Bianca Arevalo-Elizalde and Jean Elizalde

Philippines' magazine is their color skin, which won Best Printing award in 2007.

The magazine's contents run the gamut from top fashion designers to beauty tips and even sex advice to enlighten every bride and groom. Published quarterly, their website, www.weddingbelle.com.ph, is set to be the hottest online destination for curious couples.

Photography plays a major part in wedding ceremonies. The photographer is as crucial as the gown designer, makeup artist and florist, as he is ultimately responsible for the lasting memories of the event.

Vietnam photo tour

With such a high-stress job, these creative artists need every break they can get. Recently a group of photographers, including Inquirer's photojournalist Chito Vesina went on a Vietnam photography trip to capture the life and culture of our Asian neighbors. Tagging along with the group was wedding trailblazer **Madge Lejano**, who proved to be as talented with the lens as with her brushes.

The group's wedding photo exhibit, "Good Morning Vietnam," held at The Block, SM North Edsa, showcased the nine artists' photographs. Vietnamese Ambassador Ye Xuan Truong graced the opening and was more than impressed with the vivid photographs. The exhibit was made possible by Twinlab, who printed the photographs on Kodak paper.

Wedding videographer James Magbanua was so impressed that he vowed to join the next outing, this time to Malaysia or Cambodia. It's amazing that these hotshots are so devoted to their craft that even their vacations involve their artistry.

Recent weddings

But I digress. After all the "local colors" of the wedding is not the photographers but the bride.

The bridal gown is the showstopper of all weddings. I will never forget my own Maddie Aguinaldo-inspired creation by fashion designer Inno Sotto, from its black floral appliqués to the gold accessories. Normally frank in taboo at weddings, but I suppose no one can say I am somewhat unconventional when it comes to fashion.

Modern-day weddings are more free of superstitions and traditions. Two weddings I recently attended had black as their color motif. And actor Lesley Santos did their vegetarian in black and even the guests were forced to dress in the color motif. It all gave an added elegance to the affair.

Then Cicsit Sikaogsiaci and Raul Bilkis rocked Tagaytay Midlands with their black motif. The couple and I bonded during last year's "Celebrity Duets," with musical diva Irene Raul paying extra attention to make my vampy voice sound melodic.

Poker

Both recently joined me as a Texas Hold'Em event—the Poker for a Royal Cause Tournament held at Metro Card Club in Mandaluyong, Ortigas. Lots of celebrities, like Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez, Richard Gomez, Bobby Andrews, Paolo Paredes, QT del Mar, Doug Kramer, Epi Quizon and Angelika Jones, came to support the effort. The best performance once-born John Estrada, who made it to the Top 18.

The owners of Metro Card Club, Mark Galan, Bonadel Ringuia and Neil Arce, generously donated their club and their facilities for the event. Also aiding the effort: Filipino Poker Tour organizer Alan Escasa, together with my accomplice Hi Dutch '83, hosted this all-for-the-Cross charity tournament.

Red Cross Makati City is the newest branch of the PNRC Blood Chapter, having been formally launched just a year ago. It is part of a network that encloses all of the Red Cross' six major service clusters: emergency assistance, safety services, blood banking, community health and nursing, social services, and Red Cross Youth. Now that's a worthy cause!

The grand champion was Bonnie Gre. Torres, who won a plane ticketing by Evan Aurora. I am so thankful to Fonz, as he has been supporting all my charities throughout the years.

The other major prizes were all donated, including vacation packages from the country's top resorts, like Pearl Farm in Davao, Club Noah in Palawan, Tides Resort, Boracay Tropics Resort, Holiday's and Discovery Shores in Boracay, and Amorita Resort in Bohol. Other sponsors included Metro Daimaru, National Book Store, Fastech, Urban Spa, Cupcakes by Sonja, Mahdey's Pizza, Danilo's Donuts and PhilWeb Corp.

Incidentally the New Metro Card Club, still at Mandaluyong, will be opening with a $\$$400,000 Texas Hold'Em tournament on Oct. 4-5, with P2 million in guaranteed prizes. This will be the fifth leg of the Filipino Poker Tour and features a last buy-in of P30,000 and a P1,000 entry fee. For details, visit www.metrocardclub.com.

But I've digressed again, haven't I? From weddings to poker, I hope your Sunday is as valuenteral as mine.

E-mail the author at snapiracas@inquirer.com.ph

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GREAT couple Marlen and David Nieto

ROSE Hemenegio and Angela Arroyo

"CELEBRITY Duets" couple Bayani and Marilen Fernando

COOL lawyer Epi Quizon

A grander celebration of Swiss Food Festival

THE SWISS FOOD FESTIVAL at Manila Polo Plaza Hotel last year was such a success that there was a request of the owner, General manager Klaus Hauzi, who happens to be Swiss, said this year it was bigger, had more sponsors and longer (time).

It coincided with the National Day of Switzerland. Host for the occasion were Swiss Ambassador Dr. Peter Fanzen and Mme. Simone Hunsinger, the embassy's counselor. The celebration was held at the hotel's Garden Terrace, overlooking only Swiss artwork from all over the Visayas and a good sprinkling of Iloilo.

Officiating from all over Hauzi, his pretty wife Ria and their twin son Morgan and Aurelia, dressed in Alpine costumes. With them at the VIP table were Ambassador Fanzen, Philippine Airlines' senior vice Indira Dispalcante Berardelli (a outfit like with Leonilon Olivencia, Consul General of Turkey in Cebu), Honorary Consul of Canada in Cebu and Mrs. Robert Lee, and Mont de Vasconcellos, exotic the most handsome Swiss ambassador in the region.

Hauzi welcomed the guests at the start of the evening, saying the celebration was all about Switzerland's unity within a federation and its age-old friendship with the Philippines.

A recording of the Swiss national anthem at the Church of Stans (Canton de la Unterwalden) was played, followed by a message from Switzerland's president, Dr. Pascal Couchepin, a recent visitor of the Philippines.

HONORARY Consul of Canada in Cebu Robert Lee and wife Anna Lee

Best ambassadors

The president cited that 670,000 Swiss nationals live beyond the country's borders, and thanked the 130,000 of them who responded to the country's appeal to vote in the latest elections. The number of Swiss living in Asia has increased considerably, he said.

When it was the ambassador's turn to speak, he thanked all those present at the event and said his country's best ambassadors are the Swiss who lived abroad. These were shown in Expo and some did say, "Speciality Mr Hauzi."

Switzerland is a country of four diverse cultures and as many languages. "The foundation of the country dates back to 1291," said Ambassador Fanzen, "which means we are observing our 717th birthday this year." The Swiss Federation as we know it today was founded in 1848.

TO SWITZERLAND? Maria Nardusonna; Swiss Ambassador Dr. Peter Fanzen; Bo Hauzi, Imee Floriger and Marco Polo Plaza Hotel GM Hans Hauzi

Swiss textiles, merchants and engineers came to the Philippines in the 19th century. The first consulate to open in Asia was in Manila, in 1862.

Cheese and sausage galore

Diners were entertained and encouraged to embrace buffet fashion. There were cheeses and sausages galore, as well as an array of stylized dishes and desserts. Swiss wines were poured throughout the evening. The salute was labeled "Fleur D'Amour" and the red, "Mont d'Amour." Lively music was provided by the Interact Band.

There was a school of lechon with pigs for every of the guests. Some tried their luck in the yodeling contest, won by a pretty Roman girl, Tori Park, who sings like an angel. Later, she and Daniel Jeong performed in a violin duo the Italian tango "Por Una Cabeza" from the film "Scent of a Woman." Applause was enough to merit very encores.

About a dozen went outings for the Swiss-made events, even by Bacnan Chic, owner/VP of Metrobank. He was the only one who guessed the tricky question as to how many cantons there are in Switzerland—23. Everyone thought it was 24.

Ambassador Fanzen explained. In the Swiss Federation, there are 23 cantons, and four half cantons. The half cantons don't add up to one.

Top prize of the evening was a round trip on Swiss International Airlines to Zurich, Bâle, guess what town. I'll have to start planning a trip to Switzerland and choose which canton I visit. Maybe I'll take a look at the Earl canton.

Meanwhile, Mayor Dito Plaza in Cebu continues with its culinary journeys. After the Swiss food fest comes the Spanish fair September. Soon it will be time for Oktoberfest. The iconic Bavarian Sound Express band that came last year will again roam all spirits. Then on Nov. 29, it's time once again for Bratwurstfest. Yessss.

Timeless fragrance, gem of a scent

Phillippe Charriol, the man behind luxury watches and exquisite jewelry, turns his golden touch to perfumes

By Apples Ribeiro-Sadhwani

"MY FIRST MEMORIES WORK Miroslav Dvorak, who is now my friend, is a former Miss Universe," says Philippe Charriol, the man behind the success of Charriol, the luxury brand best known for its cable designs on watches and jewelry.

Together with fellow Frenchman and good friend Jean-Pierre Gilvesty of Cofinluxe, Charriol was in Manila to launch his latest offerings: Parfum Charriol for both men and women.

Both men strongly believe in the power of scents. "The power of smell is such that it reminds you forever of a person or a circumstance. The personality of a fragrance is very important," says Gilvesty.

As such, Charriol and Gilvesty endeavored to create fragrance that reflect the Charriol spirit.

"I told him I wanted something classy and elegant for men, sensual and voluptuous for women—and not too spicy," Gilvesty says. "A few parameters. After that we sats each other a few times and back and forth for two to three days our which fragrances would be the best, the most appropriate to reflect the name and the culture and the personality of Charriol."

It was not a difficult task for Gilvesty given their relationship. "Both the brand and the man have very strong personalities. And by wearing impressions, feelings and so on, we have translated the Charriol universe in a product," he says.

True reflection

The product, as it turns out, is a true reflection of the Charriol brand. Starting from the packaging dominated by primer, or subergine, the color of the season and the brand's corporate color, mixed with gold for the woman's fragrance and silver for the men's.

The cable design, which Charriol calls the branch DNA, is also incorporated in the bottle design. More important, the fragrances evoke the impression that Charriol wants the consumer to experience—a timeless elegance for men and sensual glamour for women.

Impressions

The scents are composed of various ingredients such as passion fruit, herbals and vetyver for the women's fragrance, and Italian lemon, rosewood amber for the men's.

But according to Gilvesty, it can be restrictive to speak about ingredients. "Generally, I prefer to speak about the impressions. There are nearly 90 different ingredients in (these) concentrations, and if you would be smelling, the other ones wouldn't be smelling the same way."

Asked why he finally decided to come up with the brand's fragrances, Charriol says, "There's always crime for everything and today is the 20-year anniversary of the Charriol brand and the right time for us to brand to launch a fragrance, especially in the Philippines where the name is so well-known."

Together with Gilvesty, Charriol is looking off a four-leading here in the Philippines to introduce his new products to consumers around the globe. "We're starting a world tour in a country where the name is most appreciated," says Charriol. This will soon be followed by trips to Singapore, Hong Kong and the Middle East.

E-mail the author at <philstyle@philstar.com.ph>

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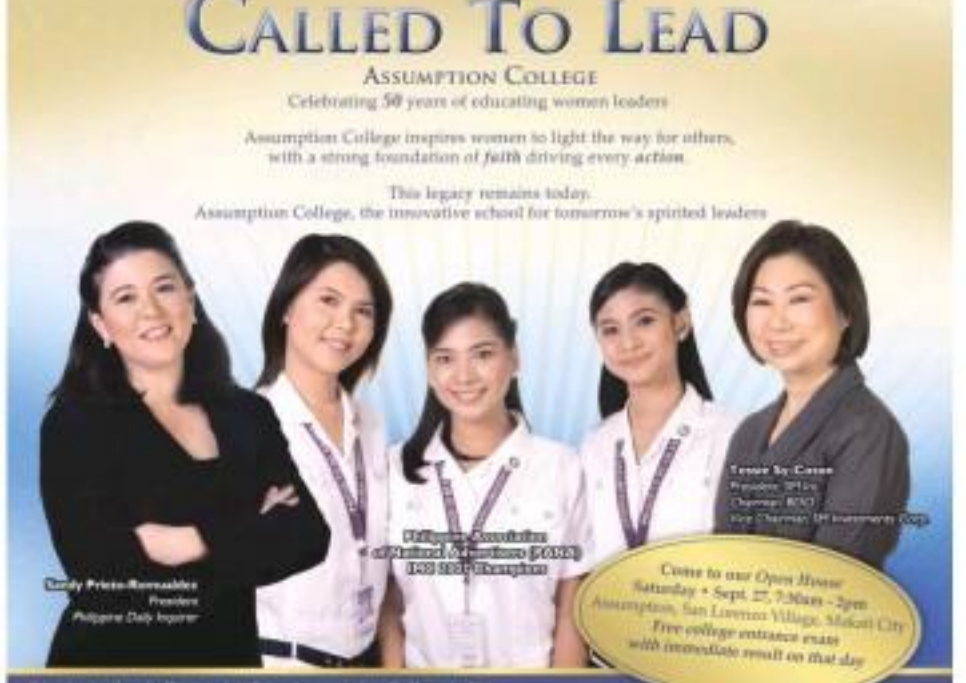

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Floats, musicians, dancers and our beloved Disney Characters in a magical procession that brings the streets of Main Street, U.S.A. to life will definitely put a smile on everyone's face. This wondrous promenade features well-loved Disney Characters from such classics as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" to today's family favorites.

Jungle River Cruise

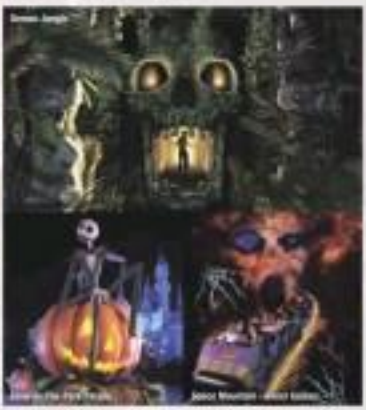
This classic river voyage of adventure lets the cruisers brave mysterious jungles with surprises around every bend in the river including an epic battle of fire and water. Wild beasts such as hippos, elephants, cobras and orangutans meet voyagers at close encounters. Not to mention an encounter with the most feared animal in the jungle — the wisecracking skipper!

Autopia

Autopia gives kids of all ages the chance to get behind the wheel of their very own space-age automobile and hit the road of tomorrow. A drive that will take them along futuristic streets, crazy corners and dazzling dips that will make them clamor for more!

WHERE FUN, FEAR & LAUGHTER RESIDE

This Halloween, the darkness once again takes over Disneyland. Courage is put to the test with all new thrilling attractions including the Demon Jungle, Glow-In-The-Park Parade, Space Mountain – Ghost Galaxy & more. All the darkness, all the fear, all the fun. All at Hong Kong Disneyland.



Demon Jungle

Explorers built their outpost on a burial ground, awakening the demons who possessed everything and everyone inside. Lost for years, the outpost has now been found in the depths of Adventureland, ready to be explored by those who dare. Getting into the jungle is one thing. Getting out is another matter.

Glow-In-The-Park Parade

Once a year when darkness prevails, this spooky sensation glows in the dark and rocks the Park. Visitors get to join Jack Skellington and his creepy Pumpkin Men and behold the horror of Dr. Finkelstein's Lab. Scream with the Disney Villains and gasp at the shocking Red Devils with their spine-chilling acrobatics. This year a whole new Ghostly Pirate Ship will create a rousing finale. Visitors should be on the look out as these ghostly mates share their pirate treasure.

Space Mountain – Ghost Galaxy

The darkness of the outer regions of an alternate Universe is explored in this fast and furious roller-coaster. Space Mountain has been transformed with a hauntingly eerie sound track, ghoulish monstrosities and scary apparitions which lurk around unsuspecting twists and turns to make your heart race and your skin crawl. Ghost Galaxy is not a journey for the faint-hearted!

Haunted Buffet & Halloween Special Merchandise

Warm your bones with some comfort food. There will be a Haunted Buffet at the Enchanted Garden, Halloween menu at River View Café and Special drinks at Corner Café. At the Market House Bakery you'll find scary sweet treats that are simply to die for. And you can also grab some of our all-new souvenirs. There's over 160 Mickey, Jack Skellington and Winnie the Pooh themed goodies such as plushies, pins, key chains, T-shirts, stationeries, candles and more. Don't forget to get yourself a spooky headband to enhance your costume.

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Hong Kong Disneyland

Sunday LIFESTYLE

What their comfort zone is like

Why celebrities and serious shoppers believe they're in a good place now

Jun de Leon: I love it here

By Anne A. Jamboco

JUN de Leon, the country's choice photographer of celebrities, has finally found home. And it has everything to do with space, books, coffee and cigarettes.

With seven-year-old Mik in tow, his new wife Isabella de Alejandro Avenue. De Leon talked carefully about another passion—living his dream life at Bonifacio Global City.

"I love it here. I have already planned my life around here," De Leon said.

Since moving into a fancy high-rise with his family at Bonifacio Global City three years ago, De Leon's lenses for his stunning portraitures of beautiful women and men, and cutting-edge magazine covers, and he couldn't imagine living anywhere else. Recently, his job takes him away from NBC.

"My friends have been teasing me to no end that there's life outside BGC."

Apparently, almost everything that De Leon needs is there—a stone's throw away from his studio, for instance. At Bonifacio High Street, he can take, unwind or simply enjoy being alone, and in his own world.

"Living here is like living in another country. It is self-sustained by the management. You step out of BGC and you see traffic, dirt, pollution," he said.

Call it escapism but De Leon also avoids watches the news on TV because the result is "too violent and depressing"—a trait for a man who, also, is among the most passionate photojournalists in the country—and who only reads the news, the cosmopolitan ambiance of Bonifacio High Street is welcome.

It is the vast layout of open-aired guests, equivalent to the width (40 meters) of Ayala Avenue. But spaces must to De Leon, "I know some people don't appreciate that but I do. I have space issues. I need space."

There must be order in De Leon's life—always. In his studio, where he shoots actress-author Dan every one else, including the building manager. De lights up the room with scented candles before settling down to work on mock-up concepts. By the time everyone arrives, he already has ideas running in his head.

"The thing some photographers don't do is preparation. They just shoot away an location without an idea [though]. I always want to be ahead of everyone else so I always plan everything. Given two more-or-less hour to change when actual work is being done. Since I practically work 24/7, I need space to think and," he said.

Just walking around Bonifacio High Street, in fact, bookmark-

JUN DE LEON G3

Louie Ocampo: 'Like Disneyland for me'

If talking about Ben Gimilla and Greenbelt Malls is like music to Louie's ears, it isn't just because he's performed in these places for major musical events in many times. Having frequented the commercial complex since the 70s, the award-winning composer, arranger, and musical director knows exactly where the Real Theater (Makati Supermarket, and other long-gone landmarks used to stand. CCE Cultur, relives his television and short-took piece, for instance, was the site of a stand-

LOUIE G2

Susie Entrata-Abrera: Leisurely five hours!

WHEN SHE she's alone or with her husband Paolo Abrera and young daughters Carina, Julia, and Antonella, celebrity mom Suzi Entrata-Abrera can spend anywhere from a quick 30 minutes to a leisurely five hours at Mercator Market at the Bonifacio Global City. It's a visit that begins at 10 am with grocery-shopping (she finds their supermarket filled with a huge variety of goods), followed by stopovers to her favorite shops as almost every floor.

SUSIE G2

Rajo Laurel: 'A place where we can breathe'

When Rajo Laurel invites kids Sonja's Cupcakes and order for his favorite Velvet and brewed coffee, you'll know the fashion designer is a regular of this sweet spot of Serendra—and not just because he and associate maker Sonja Soriano live blocks from high school. Company to stops away from Poltu Boutique at Bonifacio High Street—"love to read and if I could live there, I would," Laurel says—the furniture shops Dimensions and Be Concepts and the gallery above them. Then there's his overboard drinking place. Cav. "If I had time to kill," says Laurel, fresh from his successful 15th anniversary show, 'Rajo Red.' "Serendra is the best place to be."

Serendra is also where Rajo's restau-

RAJO G2

Bea Lucero-Lhullier: Caters to my family

All the former gymnastics and basketballs Olympian lives in the south. It only makes perfect sense for her to shop at Alabang Town Center. Not only is it the most nearest Bea's home, but the stay-at-home mom also finds it caters to the interests of every member of her family.

BEA G2

Carmi Durano: 'A highlight in our family outing'

"In business, you should be able to identify the major players of the industry," says Carmi, who with her family visits one the co-owners of the BTM brand duty and the franchisees of all Boy's outlets in Cebu. "Putting my business at Ayala

Center Cebu is the place to be."

She'll say. Not only is the mall's management very accommodating, but Ayala Center Cebu is still the choice shopping destination, judging from today's brisk sales.

CARMI G2

Marina Benipayo: 'It's like a walk in the park'

MORE mom and mentor than model Benipayo (she's finishing her MA in Counseling, conducts personality development seminars for corporations, and is a beauty titleholder herself), Marina Benipayo rounds Ayala Malls' Folkmanis the perfect place for her and her 14- and 11-year-old sons. Without a valet she and her family have lunch every Sunday,

and where they spend the rest hours of the weekend before having another hectic week of work and school.

Once in the mall, the boys head straight for TimeZone, leaving mom to relax with a cuppa and cup of coffee at Fusion. Loyalists usually at North Park, Fish & Co., or any newly discovered restaurant at Fullerton.

MARINA G3

Jinky Cruz: Always something new

Not only does Jinky spend her afternoons in the Ayala Malls every day, but the mother of two and self-described fashionista will always have time left or Bonifacio with a purchase in hand. But one don't mean just any purchase: as a regular of such high-end boutiques as Prada ('My favorite'), Chanel, and Balenciaga,

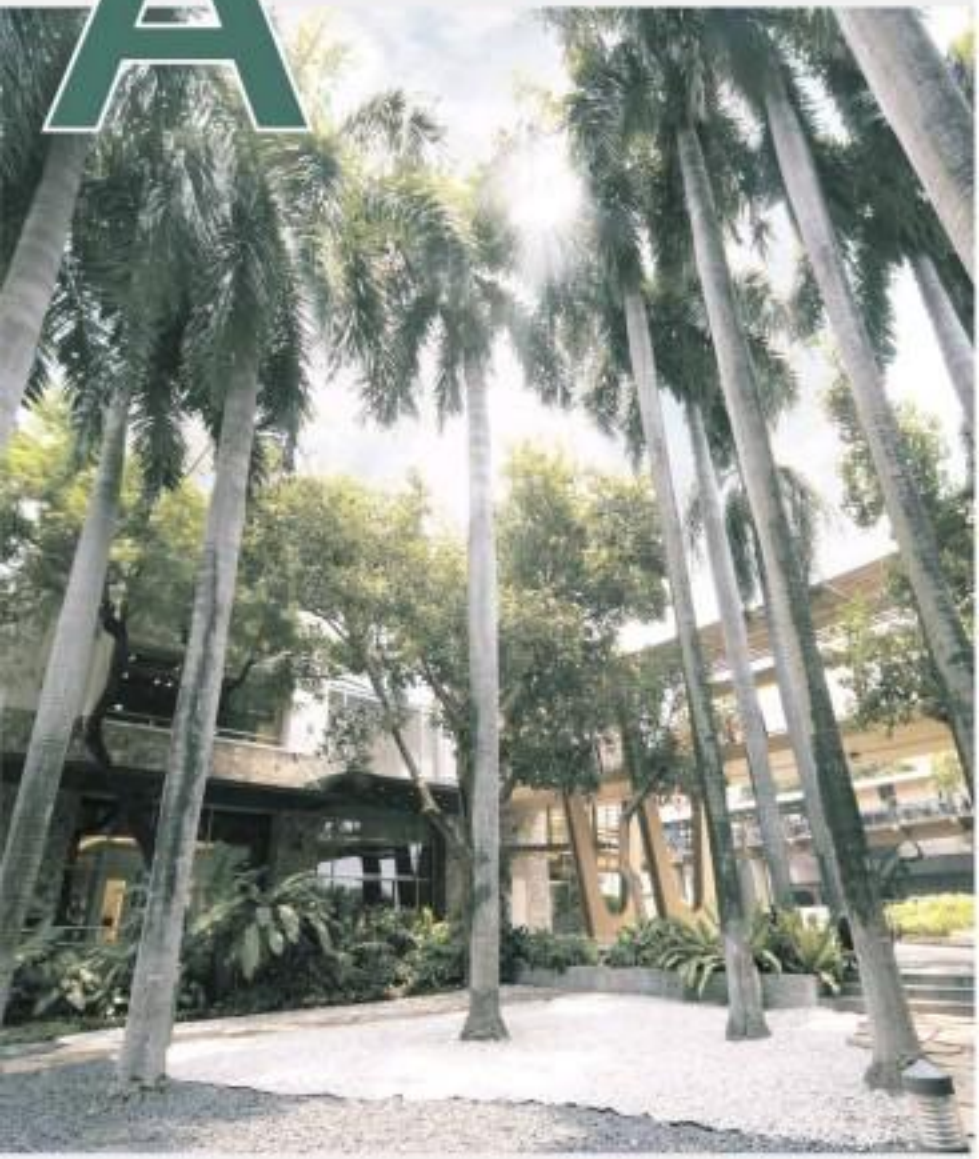
JINKY G2

Q

How do you keep pollution out?

A

Make room for nature.



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Q

How do you know what suits you?

A

By exploring the options.

At the Ayala Malls, there is always something for your every mood. Each mall has its own distinct character so you are sure to find your perfect match. Discover a variety of unique shopping destinations, flagship stores and retail boutiques. Choose from a wide range of dining and entertainment options, playgrounds, parks and open spaces. Take part in world-class activities and events. There will always be rewarding experiences to take home, every time. To pioneer land development, to improve quality of life – that is the Ayala Land commitment. Enhancing land, enriching lives for more people.

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Ayala Malls

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
Jim Paredes shows some 'Skin' /G4

Ping vs. Manny: Style face-off

SENATORS Manny Villar and Ping Lacson are having a face-off of a different kind. Two of the most stately lawmakers in the country show a concern for style and grooming that flies in the face of the country's traditional machismo culture. As you see their photos splashed on the front page almost every day the past week, the match is obvious.

Close-ups show Villar's nose frozen by Botox. The Inquirer Group once **he has never availed himself of Botox.** Thoroughly or any device from its clinics; in fact, it's a politician with a much higher position who is a regular client.) A source attributes the 56-year-old senator's still youthful looks to genes, proper grooming, close-lying and regular maintenance of his hair. (For sure, it's not done in some hole-in-wall salon in Las Piñas).

He buys his toiletries, apparel and accessories wherever he travels. Like a true modern, he prefers fresh soap and water to fragrance.

Known as an image endorser of Israel Gore Center (PGC) for Men...and is diligent when it comes to his looks, especially his skin. He undergoes non-invasive rejuvenation treatments such as Refirme, a medical that uses light and sound frequency to stimulate collagen growth). The sessions require a spacing of three to four weeks.

He also has the Slim/Tone Re-Energizer (S/TR), a protocol that uses low-wave currents, to keep his wrinkles at bay. His bothersome eye is all—the treatments banished the furrows on his forehead. Despite his busy schedule, Lacson visits PGC regularly, sometimes three a month.

Three senators also know how to dress right for their body type. Villar has a wide range of wardrobe, from polo shirts and jeans for outreach programs, to finely tailored barongs for official duties. Although he's not flashy about clothes, he seems to have **suede** good taste.

He favors strong colors, especially for his casual wear. He sure consist of Ralph Lifole and classic American brands such as Brooks Brothers in dark colors, which do emphasize his build. He never dyes, dies, tints or dyes more than eyebrows for color.

Villar is one believer that those under the sun. He's a get a tan in orange, from working close to hospitals—the kind one sees in Esquire or GQ.

Lacson, who is slim, built is wear lighter colors and polo having to visually bulk him up a bit. He occasionally wears light patterns suits or neutral-tint his solid-colored suit with a contrasting striped tie. He is usually styled by his wife Alice.

As the campaign season looms, style-watching in the news should be a while appear in the morning. At least it doesn't spoil your breakfast.

SEN. MANNY Villar

SEN. PANFILO Lacson

Her Bench in US Cosmo Girl

Jaci Bench, the country's fashion and lifestyle brand that counts chic women's apparel, has landed on the radar of UK teen magazine Cosmo Girl.

With Americans so, Jean Mills Bacon on the cover of Cosmo Girl USA October issue. Her Bench joins the ranks of global trendy brands in the section called JEDI (Just In You Know).

In the spread, the model dons a red Bed white short sleeve top, a striking pearl necklace with a gold leaf and flowers combination pendant, and Her Bench's beige cotton short skirt with button details.

From a local favorite to now a globe famed, Her Bench should be landing in more fans around for sure.

From China, the Middle East to the US, Her Bench is certainly going places.

Noise pollution in restos

No doubt, the Philippines resto scene is getting more and more sophisticated—varied, and innovative eating, what with the influx of young adventurous chefs, the ambiance and greater competition.

But can you have yourself talk, or your dining companion talk? More and more, you need be a big-maker to carry on a conversation in many restos, even fine dining places.

This is because many of today's resto don't seem to have factored in acoustics in their designs. The minimal, lit style of the past decades did away with carpets, curtains, tablecloths, cushioned seats—elements that somehow absorb the sound. In their place came metal structures, industrial-style ceilings, concrete and glass. The noise bounces off these surfaces.

"It's all hard surfaces, nothing to absorb the noise," said a leading architect.

And walls have no insulation behind them.

"Lighting, acoustics, even the business side of design—these are not taught to some of today's designers," noted another architect.

And, said another, "acoustics features are the first to get cut off the budget because, anyway, they're not visible. They're not decorative."

If the noise level in resto worsens, the consumers might vote up on days to find that discriminating diners, who want good conversation to go with their food are going more place else where they don't have to scream to say sweet nothings to each other.

Interesting claim

It's a Do-It wedding, a well-dressed female guest was congratulated by another guest who mistakenly thought the woman was a relative of the groom, who happened to come from a rich, well-placed family—just because the woman guest had the same surname.

Surprise, instead of saying that she was no relative at all, the woman said, straight-faced, "Thank you, she's a cousin." The mum have shocked a few who overheard the false claim, which proves to when laughs come tall pictures, which blend them to the Who's Who list.

Add this to reminder to party etiquette: Don't claim blood ties to the host.

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GOINGS ON

UP CMC alumni homecoming

THE UP COLLEGE OF MASS COMMUNICATION promises big prizes for baby-cutie lookalikes at the grand alumni homecoming this September. Up for grabs are gadgets, jewelry, vacation packages, gift certificates and more.

"UP Mass Comm and You: Photographs and Memories 40s," will be held on Sept. 27, 1 p.m. at the CMC Panlad Hall in Diliman, QC. Alumni and friends of the college can buy raffle tickets at P50 each at the gates.

Raffle prizes include a notebook computer with Smart Bro 3700 modem from SMART Communication, five travel packages for two to Boracay from South East Asian Airlines, Eucondo Resort, and Sun Beach Resort, two round-trip tickets to your choice of domestic destination via Philippine Airlines, beautician certificates, a Sony Ericsson mobile phone, jewelry worth P20,000 and many more home-hold appliances and kitchen utensils. Bonifacio Ilaw can also win certificates from The Zen Institute Medical Spa and Ensenga Restaurant.

The alumni homecoming starts with an "open house," 11 a.m.-3 p.m., followed by registration from 3 p.m. The program starts at 5 p.m., with dinner and fellowship night at midnight.

CMC alumni are entitled to free entrance. Friends of CMC will pay an entrance fee of P200. Call Mercy J. delos Reyes (0917-8007249; mercyjodelosreyes.com), Ma'ret Santos (0920-3929-6865; 0908-4003553; arsmart2000@yahoo.com) or Rafael Ramos (920-6494; 0927-3460603; rafaelramos@gmail.com).

RP as international shopping destination

Festival Supermall joins September Shopfest 2008, a month-long event geared at positioning the Philippines as an international shopping destination and actively establishing itself as the Philippines is the world's shopping mall.

September Shopfest 2008, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, is designed to promote Filipino brands and boost tourism spending by the country's foreign visitors. He emphasized that it is not the imported designer brands that have foreign tourists in the Philippines for shopping, but the Filipino brands which are of high quality, low price and good design.

Nationwide Mall's panel 10 lucky shoppers may month. Every P1,000 purchase from any of the mall's tenants entitles a customer to join the promo. A condo unit at the West Park Sister Residences is among the prizes up for grabs.

The Festival Supermall is located at Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

A robotic exhibit

After a successful debut in Indonesia, Plaza Nautical, the "Dinosaurs are Back," a robotic exhibit featuring over eleven giant replicas, can now be viewed at the G/L of Midtown, Robinsons Place Manila until Sept. 28.

The exhibit has been widely accepted, enjoying over 30,000 visitors to date. Shoppers, mallers and student groups alike have taken interest in the exhibit which provides comprehensive information of pre-historic dinosaurs, their vital statistics, behavior, diet and other important facts. Call 8896 100 local 180 or 182.

Trade fair in Cebu

Bijoux Cebu Happens on Sept. 20 to 23 at Shangri-La Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu City. The trade fair features fashion shows, crafts and product demonstrations, trends and theme settings, design competitions and lifestyle bazaar.

Art 2 Art

Art 2 Art, hosted by Lisa Macuja and aired on GMA every Sunday, 9:30 to 4 p.m., features personalities from different art forms. On Sept. 21, Manila Luna singer Yuki talks about her directorial debut on "Read Side Story." On Sept. 21, Macuja interviews Onden Rabillos of Artery Manila. On Sept. 28, Macuja talks to Nanita Gonzalez, author of "Mirth Gonzalez."

UP speech program

The UP Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts will conduct its 5th speech, speech and theater camp-in-out program on Sept. 27 to Oct. 25. Call 924-8589/ 981-8551/40; e-mail artsdeth@yahoo.com.

Liceo de San Pedro reunion

The Liceo de San Pedro class of '88 will hold a Christmas party-reunion on Dec. 13, 7 p.m., at Hacienda Grahado, San Pedro, Laguna. Call Grady Macatangay-Ampatiles (0922-3180680); Hilda Taber-Davis (0917-5079004); Arlyn Zaballero (0906-3173121); or Albert Icon (0920-9613666) or subscribe to liceos-88@yahoogroups.com.

Save It Forward and help Heribert "see" a bright future

Unlike most children who dream of seeing Disneyland, Santa Claus or their favorite movie celebrity, Heribert Eduarte Jr. dreams of only one thing - to finally see the faces of his loved ones.

"Gusto ko pong magpagamot ang aking mga mata. Gusto ko nang makita ang mukha ng aking tatay, nanay at mga kapatid."

Seven-year-old Heribert was born blind, but even with his condition, he strives to study hard and goes to school everyday at Resources for the Blind, Inc. (RBI) in Cubao.

"Wala kinder 3 ako at favorite subjects niya ang Math, English at PE," said his father, Heribert Sr. who works full-time to assist Heribert and those of his sighted siblings with their studies and everyday needs.

Heribert's mother is the family's breadwinner, working as a saleslady in a small department store.

Although resigned to the fact that he is blind, Heribert's parents are not about to give up on providing him with every opportunity to have a decent education, to enable him to "see" a bright future.

"Gusto namin maabutang ang mga pangarap ng ibang mabubuting tao. Gusto namin makatapos siya para hindi na pasanin, marun siyang hindahasan. Maliwanag kasi yung walang pinag-aralan."

From their house in Caloocan City, father and son travel everyday to the RBI Pre-school in Cubao, Quezon City. Here, Heribert has learned not only to read and write using Braille, he also learned skills that will help him adapt with normal-sighted children when he enrolls in grade 1.

Various donations to RBI have made the father and son's daily trips possible. It is also through these financial aids that RBI has been able to sustain a pre-school program for more than 50 blind children. But these are not enough.

RBI needs more individuals to become involved in charity work for blind children, especially in the pre-school program. You can help Heribert and his visually-impaired classmates "see" a bright future by becoming a child sponsor and giving minimal monthly or annual cash donations.

With the "Save It Forward" program, you can also get the chance to sponsor their education by simply maintaining your peso savings, peso checking, and dollar savings account at PSBank.

"Save It Forward" is a scholarship program that will benefit 200 children - 100 visually impaired and less-privileged children and 100 of the "Save It Forward" winners' own children, nephews, nieces or grandchildren.

100 "Save It Forward" winners can choose a child sponsee from Resources for the Blind or World Vision Foundation. On their behalf, PSBank will pay for the completion of either the elementary or high school education of their chosen child.

"Save it Forward" winners will also get a one-year scholarship for their child, nephew, niece or grandchild for school year 2009-2010. The scholarship covers any year level in elementary, high school, vocational and college. Pre-school and post-graduate studies are excluded from the program.

One raffle number will be issued for every average daily balance (ADB) increment of P5,000 for peso savings and peso checking accounts and $500 for dollar savings accounts. The higher the ADB and the longer depositors keep the account open, the more entries he gets and the more chances of winning in the draw.

Twenty-five winners each will be drawn on October 15, 2008 and January 15, 2009 while 50 winners will be drawn on April 15, 2009. For more details on Save It Forward, call 845-0025-9886, email investforward@psbank.com.ph or log on to www.psbank.com.ph.

What their comfort zone is like

Louie Ocampo: 'Like Disneyland for me'

ing machine and a short walk away from the first Express Teller machine. "It's like an extension of my home," he says with a smile.

But while thoughts of the former Makati Commercial Center got him in a sentimental mood, Louie knows to label his attention for many reasons. "Bershadt is becoming very, very nice," says Louie, who goes to the movies there, and likes to eat in Cyma, Sugi, and Manbaehai. "And I like the fact that everything is all connected. I can walk from Glorietta to Greenbelt without shopping out."

Louie's ultimate high, however, is Park Square. When he has time to spare, or just wants to unwind, he'll take off from his Peking Tame office, leave his car at Park Square, and lose himself in the variety of books and food stores. "From cameras to cell phones, speakers, and computer shops," he reasons. "It's like Disneyland for me!" Joy Rojas

Carmi Durano: 'A highlight in our family outing'

Of course, this mom of two teenagers and better half of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano appreciates ACC for other reasons. Besides being child-friendly and designed in a manageable size, "I feel it is more relaxed and that it is not that crowded," says Carmi, whose weekends at Ayala Center Cebu include TimeZone for her kids, and dinner at Chi Gerry's, the family's favorite restaurant. "The other aspect of the mall I like is the new Activity Center. While my kids were younger, we would always attend the Ayala Malls events for children. We consider coming to the malls a highlight in our family outing."

Rajo Laurel: 'A place where we can breathe'

carts of choice are. Dinner's with close friends and guests from abroad are usually at Abe ("It's the first place I take them to") and Manmo.

While some customers prefer the privacy of eating indoors, the designer doesn't mind dining al fresco, especially if the weather is nice. "There are very few places there days where you can enjoy the outdoors, and Serendra and the rest of Bonifacio Global City have given us a place where we can breathe," he says. Indeed, while Rajo covers business expenses in venues closer to his atelier, Serendra, he says, "is designed for leisure. I try not to put work in this context."

Joy Rojas

Jun de Leon: I love it here

white tees, jeans and sneakers, is enough to relax his mind. The layout is clear and the place not cramped with people. Even better, given its wide-open space, Bonifacio High Street is smoker-friendly. "It is a requisite for me, since I must have a smoking area," said De Leon, who never gives up the habit acquired as a young news photographer.

He may smoke like a chimney, but he dislikes the nasty habit of some smokers—littering wherever, whenever. So each time he sees a cigarette butt on walkways, he picks it up and throws it into the trash bin.

"They ruin the mood for me. I don't understand why some people don't put out cigarettes in designated places," he said.

De Leon also frequents the Portico where the staff has gotten used to preparing his favorite cheesecake breakfast. Or he sips coffee and takes long drags of his cigarette at ACC Cafe. He also regularly visits The Fountain Enterprise.

But it was admittedly the opening of the country's largest bookstore last year, fully blooded's flagship store, with its own Starbucks, that sealed the deal for this artist. He is, after all, a voracious reader and a coffee lover.

"I love the smell of coffee and books. It stimulates my mind, do creative juices connects all the senses for me. The ambiance fully blended opened it inside my life been complete," he said.

For three years now the concept of buffet is lost on De Leon. Living and working just around Bonifacio Global City has removed so much of the stress he encountered for much of his life. He is calm and happy. He is finally home.

Bea Lucero-Lhuillier: Caters to my family

A perfect day at Alabang Town Center will have the Lhuillier's window shopping together (the family's favorite is Powerbooks). For her two young boys and daughter, it's TimeZone for Bea, who describes herself as a functional shopper, it's Make Room, Pirelli & Fiscolini, Rockin's, and Tutti Mutti. Date night with her husband on weekends is dinner at Cibo or California Pizza Kitchen, followed by a late movie at the newly renovated cinemas.

Susie Entrata-Abrera: Leisurely five hours!

"I go to Healthway for quick checkups," she says. "I also like to go to Sports Warehouse for discounted sports items, National Bookstore is also another store I frequent for art stuff for the kids, and Metro Department Store and Big and Small for their clothes and shoes. When I have time, I like to walk around the aisles of the grit market area and the floor with all the clothes stalls. I visit Ace Hardware for home supplies, Collezione for Rhett Eala-designed shirts and dresses, and Mabilis for the latest fashion. If I need Pizza food to send to family in the States, I visit the food carts near the fountain. I've also bought flowers from the flower market. For lunches and snacks, Jet Stone is, of course, a response when I'm with the kids, and Tonyan Boy is a favorite."

Jinky Cruz: Always something new

Jinky is one of the first clients Gaithers call for a preview of new season items or before an actual sale. "I was told that when they go on buying trips abroad, they actually have me in mind," says Jinky, "so in. 'What would Mel see Jinky like?'"

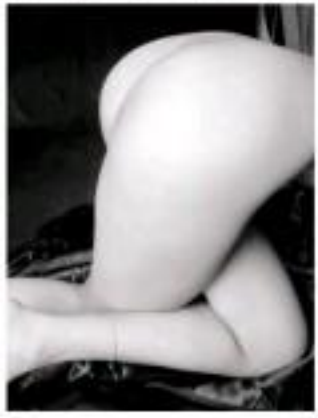
As to how she manages to find something to buy, Jinky, who shops for her husband at Rags Basic and for her 10-year-old and 13-year-old kids at Zara, is talking from experience. "there is always something new." We believe her. While her last visit to the mall scored her the latest Balenciaga bag, the Ayala Malls denizen already knows what she's going home with after this interview—a pair of Pedro shoes.

Marina Benipayo: 'It's like a walk in the park'

then it's back to TimeZone for the boys and another cup of coffee, this time at Figaro, for mom. Mid afternoon will find the bread shopping for what they like and need for the boys, it's something for school or their holidays, for Marina, it's clothes or accessories from Zara, Mango, or Primed. "I also go to Landmark to get a good bargain or two." If time permits, they catch a movie ("The theater-style seats are great!"). But a must for them is the supermarket, an adventure for both mom and the kids. While Marina relishes the wide aisles and wellness ingredients, her sons are stumped over their countless own options. "Nakakatuwa when I see them choosing for themselves," says Marina with a smile. "nakikinig sila sa akin!" By 6, the boys and their mom happily head for home.

Pleased with TriBeCa's over flowing dining and shopping choices, its refreshing landscaping, and seats for shoppers to take a quick break, Marina compares a day at this mall to "taking a walk in the park. The ambiance is just so relaxing."

Jim Paredes shows some 'Skin'



JIM PAREDES' new passion is nude photography. ALEXIS SORIANO

By Ramona C. Borges

The singer-composer bares a different side to him—and some sexy curves

FOR EIGHT YEARS NOW, musician-composer Jim Paredes has been into photography of nature and people in "Skin: A Photo Exhibit by Jim Paredes in Black and White and Red," however, his skill in revealing the sensuality of the human body is unsurpassed.

"Skin," his first exhibit of nudes to run Sept. 23 to Oct. 2 at Readerstore Gallery, SM Megamall, depicts the body as art, not erotica or pornography.

The 39 black-and-white photographs range in size from 37 x 20 to 20 x 40.

"I downplayed the greatest aspect because they will be displayed in a mall," he says. "And I avoided totally the nude magazine pose."

Some of the pictures were given a touch of red. One studied dress and underwear while another holds a red scarf. "I was fascinated with our color standing out. Red is kind of eye-catching, so is the subject matter. It's a different perspective," Paredes says.

The nine models, who are show-biz personalities and mostly first-timers to nude modeling, say "oh, agonizing and willing to do the process."

Paredes says, "I went as far as they were willing to go. But I never forced them to do more than they were not comfortable with."

For Paredes, support with his subject is very important. "If she's not comfortable before the camera, the tension will come out in her expression," he says. "Some of those I approached were willing to pose for [my] magazines, but not to take off their clothes for an artistic shot."

Paredes' passion for nude photography started eight years ago, when he did the Body Collection for Metro magazine. "It was as nudes that were done then. I've developed such real, fair fascination for the female form."

It gives the chance, Paredes dreams of photographing Lucy Torres-Gomez and Bea Alonzo. "They would be fantastic models," he says. "[Also] I like beautiful women whose sensuality comes out when photographed."

Music awarder

Paredes, 57, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts at Ateneo de Manila University. He became part of the legendary APO Hiking Society with Danny Javier and Boboy Garrovillo, in 1974. From 1975 to 1979, he was an artist and repertoire director for the JRM Recording Company. He was president of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-awit in 1989 and board member from 1986 to 1990.

His classic compositions such as "Batang-bata Ka Pa," "Multo ng Kahapon at ng Ayon ng Ba," "Himalangin," and "When I Met You" made APO an influential power in the music scene. He received Catholic Mass Media Awards for the compositions "American Junk," "Monday ng Pilipino sa Manila," and "Tuloy Ang Pasko."

When he went into photography in 1987, it was Paredes' dream to have his photos published, no matter the size. So he asked lifestyle editor Rachael Sese Jones, who was down at the helm of Metro magazine, if he could put his photos there even if he were no producer.

Sese-Jones instead gave him an assignment for the magazine cover. "Darlene asked, 'Can you do it in mid-size format?' I said, 'Sure!' Then I called a friend and asked what a mid-size format was," Paredes relates with a good laugh.

His initial assignment was to shoot his favorite model, G Toengi, who wore a swimsuit and white submerged in a pool. "It came out really nice. Darlene was impressed. So she sang re-promote me."

After that episode, Paredes got more assignments from Metro, Diva, Hot Studio, Pinoy Today and a Japanese publication.

Unique element

For Paredes, what framed photographs through self-study, the challenge lies in what can vary or unique in a subject. "The job of a photographer is to make a big deal about ordinary things through angles, lighting and shadows, color. Most people don't really look at things. They see but they don't usually educate what's really there."

Paredes still has 56 photos of provocative images of naked women for exhibit, to his plans to tour the second part of "Skin" to Sydney in Australia, next year.

Both images it's not to be over really thought about. But Paredes plans to snap pictures of plus-size women in all their naked glory. "But the women I asked feel they're not ready to pose before the camera."

He would also love to photograph women in their 40s and 50s. "The idea revolves around the evolving feminine. [It] of a woman in any type of body. Physical beauty, from a youthful point of view, can fade, but physical beauty that's more mature has a different appeal."

Wig Tavarez and Eddie Boy Brandon will do the difficult editing of "Skin."

Rather than being hyperventilated by the nudes' sex-crazed, my viewers are invited by Paredes to study the pictures for what they reveal about the inside lives.

New handset models

NOKIA E71 UNLIMITED! retail price, P35,900)

It helps improve your workflow with mobile access to your business and personal e-mail. Set up is simple: dial keyed e-mail box and full keyboard help you get your message out.

It allows you to stay up to speed with 3G, HSDPA, and WLAN connectivity. It also has Nokia Maps and integrated A-GPS, helping you use one step ahead of your schedule.

Nokia E66 (P 31,500)

It has convenient e-mail solutions, with rich S60v3 Calendar and Contacts for fluent, and improved easy-dialing functionality.

You can switch from business to personal mode with a single click, giving you easy access to useful features, including Nokia Maps, 3.2 megapixel camera, music player, and FM radio. It also has integrated assisted-GPS and Nokia Maps.

Nokia 6600 Slide (P16,500)

Smooth motion and exclusive materials come together in a simple, well-proportioned design with a 2.2" 2PT display and high quality slider.

It provides most options by connecting you with quad-band GSM, UMTS, Bluetooth, EDGE, and 3G for video calls.

Ever may capture and share images with a 2.2 megapixel camera, VGA on-the-go connection, and a microSD slot supporting cards up to 8GB of memory.

Nokia 6600 Fold (P18,700)

For large, tactile keys and an ample 2.12" OLED display designed high-contrast, 16M colours, and excellent readability.

It has a 2 megapixel camera, double LED flash, VGA video at 15fps (QVGA at 30fps), and video call power.

It has a microSD slot supporting cards capable of carrying up to 4GB of memory.

Nokia 7610 Supernova (P13,700)

You can change your Xpressions cover to suit your style. Match the different colors to your phone with the Xpress Collection because that lets you identify with others the easiest and adapt them to the Xpress Illuminations and wallpapers.

You may capture images and video with the handy 3.2 megapixel camera with dual LED flash light and view them on the large 2" QVGA display, supporting up to 16 million colors.

Back up your files on an external microSD memory card, share your phone for use with only one personal SIM card, and help protect your data with a PIN code to easily store your personal information.

Nokia 7710 Supernova (P9,200)

Listen to your favorite music with the music player or FM stereo radio with RDS feature that shows you the name of the radio station.

Enjoy real-time chats with pre-installed Mobile QQ and Yahoo! Go applications—and keep in touch effortlessly.

With the improved 2 megapixel camera, you can capture quality images and videos...share your favorite faces on the large 2" QVGA display or on your TV with the optional TV-out cable connection.

Nokia 7210 Supernova (P7,500)

With its S60 features, listen to your favorite songs on the music player or find out what station you're listening to on the FM radio.

Take quality images and videos with the 2 megapixel camera and store your favorite memories on the expandable external microSD memory card supporting up to 2GB.

Upload images to your Flickr online account to share your special moments with friends.

Nokia 6210 Navigator (P18,700)

With integrated A-GPS, Nokia Maps, car navigation, and a compass for pedestrian guidance, you'll find your way wherever you are.

It has high-speed 3.5G connections for quickly browse the web, access your e-mail, and download content. You can view images, pictures, and videos in stunning detail on the large 2.4" QVGA screen.

Nokia 5310 Xpressmusic (P9,800)

Make an impression with personalized themes, MSN ringtones, wallpapers, and wall papers.

Listen up to 24 hours of music from your personal music collection, or the integrated stereo FM radio. Dazzle your friends with the lights that flash to the beat of your music.

With up to 2GB of expandable removal memory, Nokia PC Suite, and Nokia Music software, it's easy to keep your music collection organized.

Nokia 5800 Slide (P11,300)

Share pictures and VGA video with videoboxes to digital users. Audio and camera key and close-life LED flash.

Share to you with TV-out, Bluetooth 2.0, hi speed USB 2.0.

NOKIA 7210 Supernova

NOKIA 6600 Slide

NOKIA 7210 Supernova

NOKIA E66

NOKIA E71

THE LUSH GREENERY welcoming guests on the restaurant makes Abe's Farm an idyllic weekend destination. It combines Kapampangan cuisine in the LJC tradition with spa pampering drawn from the region's indigenous practices.

It fulfills his dream of the country life, good old Kapampangan cuisine and cures—and a blissful massage

LARRY CRUZ doesn't do here anymore: The lower level of the country house built in stone with a few antiques was his private haven. Here the terraced upper floor is bamboo and stained canvas as dining lounge for traveler-guests.

Larry's last legacy: a farm spa in the north

By Lynett A. Villarba

FOOD CONNOISSEUR LARRY J. Cruz was instrumental to make his vision of a haven on the slopes of Mount Arayat come true—one that captures the essence of Filipino heritage and contemporary. His almost passing more months ago did not stop the project that had been launched from Larry's meticulous little mind.

This September, Larry Cruz would have celebrated his birthday, as he always had, with a big party. His daughter Lorna Cruz-Jocson, heir to his LJC Group of Restaurants, and business partners Mike and Cathy Tarvill of Sucesson Spa Village would see that the birthday tradition continues, maybe not in the grand manner Larry's presence so exemplified, but magnificently, to welcome the birth of his new baby: Abe's Farm and Sucesson Spa Village in Magalang, Pampanga.

To the urban café society he nurtured for over 20 years, Larry was always larger than life. In later years he would retire to this country farm to retreat and to give his young boys what (as he said to an interviewer) he failed to give his older children—quiet to watch them grow up. But his friends did not think he was sincere then: he was sick until he was hospitalized for bleeding sinuses in October last year.

Like his father, painter-writer Abe Aguilar Cruz, after whom Larry named Abe's Farm, Larry had the passion for food, believing that "eating at the table" against one's worries was still most certainly eating well. (Larry discovered the spot where Abe's farm is now by serendipity. It came on the day he went home to Magalang to scatter his father's ashes. Abe was from Magalang.)

Of his life-saving heart bypass some time ago, while acknowledging that years of nicotine, fat and cholesterol had taken their toll, Larry wrote, "The good life has its price."

So our thought—accepted—that a less vibrant, a visionary of the good life would pay the price so soon, when he still had one last dream to fulfill. He was in the midst of building a romantic destination for life's pleasures on the slopes of the mountain of his childhood. It was one that would integrate excellent food, good company, cigar and wine with massage and spa treatments.

Abe's Farm was his retirement home, his private corner of the world. That he would let others in to enjoy the world is an indication of his yearning to leave a legacy.

MAHTLAKE Spa Village at Abe's Farm invites couples to spend a day relaxing in the shadow of Mt. Arayat.

SIESTA is spare in a cozy Filipino way transported from Mountain Province.

His longtime friend, architect and painter Ayamie Goy, had built for him a country house in bamboo and old wood with five antiques but plenty of space for kids to run around, and a terrace view to welcome the wind from the nearby mountain. Larry would soon open the terraced second story of his home as dining lounge for traveler-guests.

Larry wanted spa relaxation in his new venture. Since he did not know the business, he tapped the Tarvills' expertise.

Cathy and Mike spent hours listening to Larry about how he would showcase Kapampangan and Filipino culture through the food, furniture arts and crafts of Abe's farm, and how he would create a special Filipino destination that people would come from afar to see.

Larry bought a heritage house, which he would rebuild in Abe's Farm, and where he would put his antiques and memorabilia. Daughter Lorna, who has taken over the LJC business, will continue that vision.

His sudden demise caught everyone by surprise. Cathy recalls that Larry emailed her and Sweetz a message for his dad, with an indication that he was feeling the battle against cancers. The next text message from the US, looking forward to opening his new farm-spa retreat."

When an integrated Abe's Farm and Sucesson Spa Village fully opens on Saturday, Mt. Arayat will find his imprint all over the place.

Larry would have been pleased with how Goy transformed a piece of the farmland into a spa village, with Zen-like cottages, gazebos and garden pathways only to be had exclusively.

Indigenous Dingue from Benguet down from the Mountain Province in lanolin-like grease have been erected beside the big swimming pool, air-conditioned for overnight or day-long accommodations.

The spa has recreated traditional Kapampangan cures in its menu, from the hygienic custody of an old Kapampangan midwife to the therapeutic kalamansi girl, papaya or mango pulped from the slopes of Mt. Arayat, the kamias fruit for strengthening and whitening fingernails, to the volcanic pumice stones of Mt. Pinatubo for sometimes tiring the feet.

The facilities provide a convergence of good living Larry redefined as: rediscovering country life, family, friends, companionship, residing in a nurturing touch, rediscovering old flavors, recipes and home-made remedies for getting well—things that have all gone missing in the hectic urban life. Who the lion of cafe nightlife telling us something?

"It fled out what LJC was cooking up, we were out of Manila's urban blight unchained to reside Magalang. You will be there in about an hour and 20 minutes.

FROM NLEX, take Angeles exit. Follow the Magalang road leading to the town plaza. When you hit the end of the town main road, turn left and then right on the first corner to enter the road to Barangay Ayala. Drive straight ahead past a resort toward a livestock village until you see the directional signs to Abe's Farm. Take an unpaved road where the lush greenery of a wooden gate on the left says you have reached your destination.

THE SPA recreates traditional Kapampangan cures in its menu—from the hygienic custody of an old Kapampangan lolang to the therapeutic kalios girl picked from the backyard garden.

Celebrating Filipino migrants around the world

THE THEME OF THE FIESTA CELEBRATION of San Lorenzo Ruiz in New York at its Parish in Corbisfield on Sept. 28 is Celebrating Filipino Migrants Around the World. Cupit Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo will lead 4,000 Filipino-Americans who will gather in St. Rufel's to attend the solemn Pontifical Mass at 2 p.m. (2 a.m., Manila time).

The archdiocese is Celebrating Filipinos Strong Adults. Fr. Ernie Dizon, archdiocesan director of the Filipino Apostolate, says The San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Hour will also be launched during the Mass. This means bringing the Holy Mass via cable TV or satellite.

It is the desire of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz to make this a long-term pastoral outreach. Hopefully with sustained funding from local sponsors, we our overseas Archdiocesan can be kept close with the Eucharistic liturgy San Lorenzo Ruiz, himself a migrant, is considered the patron saint of Filipino migrants and OFWs.

In keeping with the ethnic flavor of the Filipino Mass and customs, beginning hymns will be rendered by the San Lorenzo Chapel Choir, which will be joined by other choirs and expanded into a festival choir. Filipino parish groups were invited to join in the processional march with banner bearers dressed in Filipiniana attire.

In Metro Manila, announcements are being made with Channel 23 of ABS-CBN for the airing of the Sept. 28 Mass, hopefully on Oct. 5. Red Legaspi of The Filipino Channel is helping to make this possible. So Sunday Masses will coincide so to be beamed to Filipino migrants all over the world, please see the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz Advisory Council in Manila at 0917-8718870; call Fr. Ito Oiso at 212-966-3019 in New York; or e-mail us@saintlorenzo.com.

Testimonial dinner

A testimonial dinner for Archbishop Gordoncillo recently took place at Jing Fong Restaurant on Elizabeth Street and Bayard in Manila's Chinatown. The proceeds of the dinner went partly to the visitors of typhoon Frank. Archbishop Gordoncillo, who comes from Aklan, received the donation, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Rogers are this year's honorees emcees.

Para-sa Kapilya

Gigi Davide, vice-chair of our Chapel's Endowment Campaign, met with members of the Chapel and San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Council to finalize the listing of "25 Hers for Kapilya" on Sept. 7 but coupled with the San Lorenzo Seneca Wine. The idea was to encourage children to participate in the endowment campaign by collecting quarters in a bottle and offering the bottle filled with quarters during the Sunday Mass. Mrs. Davide is the wife of Ambassador Hilario Davide Jr. of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations.

Beatification

Steward of God St. Michael Izquierdo, spiritual confessor of St. Faustina Kowalska, will be beatified today in Gdynek, Poland. Father Izquierdo is a very important figure in the devotion to the Divine Mercy.

In his published memoirs works, Fr. Izquierdo laid down in theological root for the new forms of devotion to the Divine Mercy, to which he was to be raised apostle. The major miracle that Father Izquierdo interceded for was the survival of an apparently stillborn baby inside the mother's womb. The mother went to the tomb of Father Izquierdo and prayed to him for help. The next morning revealed the baby was alive. The mother had a normal delivery of a healthy baby.

Guadalupe trip

Unknown to many, Mexico is the seventh most popular tourist destination worldwide, receiving about 20 million tourists yearly. Tourism is the third largest sector in the country's GDP. Central to this tourist influx is the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the second most visited Catholic shrine in the world.

Two groups of Filipino pilgrims are leaving Nov. 3 and 14. They will visit

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

the beautiful picturesque cities of Mexico: Guadalupe, Mexico City, Oaxtlan, Cholula, Puebla, Cuernavaca, Taxco, Queretaro, Dolores Hidalgo, San Miguel de Allende, and Guanajuato. Apart from this, the groups will enter the United States with their luxurious visas. The US visit is highlighted by a possible visit to Disneyland and Hawaii.

Memorable accommodations will be in one-monastery named hotel and luxurious villas. To join, contact Alfonso Espiritu Travel at 521-1611/9833-bl or e-mail adoreworld@globelines.

Giant school bus

The giant school bus donation a school and school supplies for poor children aged three to six years old. A project of Rotary Club Bonifacio-south district 2320 in Tokyo and Rotary Club Kalookan-east district 3660 in Quezon, Rotary Club of International District 3830 through Sou Lang Abaya, and Rotary Foundation in Evanston, the school bonus items have been distributed to 93 centers.

In a recent trip in Davao, 23 Rotary Club members distributed the boxes to both the Muslim and Christian centers.

The trip to Davao City was intended to talk to Rotarians in the South and promote them to join their all in Rotary work, especially in helping the poor.

Celebrating all nations

The Physicians for Peace Interfaith Council is marking its third anniversary with the Celebrate the Nations gala on Oct. 5 at Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Former Senator Bill Frist, MD, is keynote speaker. The Latin Ballet of Virginia will perform. Lyne Abasilla, executive director of PFP Philippines, will go to Virginia for the celebration.

Opus Dei

The Prelature of Opus Dei will celebrate its 80th anniversary with Masses all over the world. In the Philippines, St. Josemaria Escriva's "The Way" has been translated into Hiligaynon, the 69th translation in the process day.

Help needed

Kenneth Mario Geralde is a graduating nursing student at Adamson University. She cannot take the board exam in December, however, because she doesn't have credentials to do so. She has not paid the P100,000 obligation on the school. Her father is a mere mechanic of a parish church. Can we help? Please text 0918-3292386.

Kamsvelian anniversary

The Kamsvelian Fraternity marks its 15th anniversary on Sept. 26 with a dinner-dance at North Greenhills Rotary Club. Boots Gen. Michael Ison is keynote speaker.

In Sligo, Mexico actor Pancho Rivera is currently exhibiting his paintings of Our Lady of Peñafrancia at Basilica de Peñafrancia until Sept. 30.

Unsinkable Negros women

By Abe Florendo
Contributor

THE ASSOCIATION OF Negros Producers (ANP) is run by a bevy of strong-willed women—financially prudent, glamorous and captains of their own businesses.

Here could one call women powerhouse not thrice as proven from internal combustion? Isn't there a chink in its armor of powerhouse caused by its rim and eventual bickering, or a letter leading kept tucked with a sprayer of greenish? None at all, for all appearances.

That the ANP is still around is one of the beautiful stories of the 20-year-old institution.

"We work as a team," states ANP president Mary Ann Bella Gelacruz-Yu, and she says very well speak for the other board members: Grazyna Jocson-Gaston, Aqi Tambunlin Lucas, Cathy Jayagco Magat, Cec Montanero Villoria and Millie Locsin Rhodes.

"We are a council dedicated to helping our members, inspiration to grow and become more successful. We couldn't do that if we are always clashing and sparks fly at every direction. We're not out for that. We don't want to lose sight of what we are here for in this association."

Glamour

Put another way: living one's cool, from throwing tampers or pulling out another's hair, is not glamorous. And glamour is the essence of the products of ANP: the glamour of good food, well-designed and cruelly crafted furniture, stylish gifts and housewares, fashionable clothes and accessories.

Usually getting their act together, ANP members will hold the 22nd Negros Trade Fair, Sept. 30-Oct. 5, at the Bodysuit Hall in Makati. On the theme "With the Times," ANP seeks to address the present economic uncertainties by getting out of its comfort zone. But it, by expanding its product portfolio, developing new members and strengthening its linkages.

"We have identified the various industry," says Gelacruz-Yu, "and we've proven ourselves good at pushing our products. Now, we have to make ourselves more relevant to our community and to the times. There are so many things to do."

Lifestyle items

Now that you at the Negros Trade Fair is the Corporate Lifestyle Gifts Showcase.

Gelacruz-Yu promises that their corporate giveaways will be nothing like the mass-produced thingamajigs and gadgets from Divisoria shoved to Hong Kong, but "more like lifestyle items. Thoughtfully designed, functional, and with a touch of the indigenous."

They have invited top corporations in Manila to see for themselves how they can make their gift-giving more meaningful and memorable.

The trade fair will also become a platform for the tourism marketing efforts of the province of Negros to promote what the Negros Island Tourism, Inc. (NITI), whose campaign, "Adventure Negros," highlights the many dive spots in Negros Occidental, its profusion of cycling clubs, and the allure of Mount Kanlaon for mountaineers.

"We believe that trade and tourism work together," says Gelacruz-Yu, whose association sits in the board of NITI.

A big step for ANP in its desire to make the trade fair truly "holistic" is the dedication of fresh organic from producers. Negros today is at the forefront of organic farming, some "is necessary more than a trend," according to a farmer from Victorias, one of the 25-strong Negros Occidental Organic Producers and Retailers Association.

ART BRINGY
PHOTOGRAPHER LOCSIN

The organic farmers will be selling their vegetables, fresh rice, rainforest coffee and such others that have become integral to a healthy, if not upscale, lifestyle.

To push out to more markets, ANP has launched Expo 2008, in which 20 new entrepreneurs are taken under its wings and mentored by established members.

"We teach them how to improve the quality of their products," says Gelacruz-Yu, "we give them seminars on exporting, marketing, networking, servicing, collection, and on forth. It's like Business 101. We hope that they will inject new blood into the association."

Gelacruz-Yu manages Asiaman, the ceramic company founded by her mother-in-law Perla who years back did an acclaimed first: limited-number plates printed with works of artists like Joya, Angkiahok, Edsel Ilanzuan, Rock Drilon.

Gelacruz-Yu also runs a quaintly charming store called Handmade Gallery in Bacolod, which carries beautifully crafted pieces of wood, ceramic, bamboo, stone, paper and other native materials, coming from the country's islands and other interior countries.

Gaston is well-known for her lamps and tabletop items with innovative designs and highly creative use of native materials (her Underneath coconut lamps, which have found their way to opulent homes in Europe and the United States.

Former ANP president and an architect by profession, she started out doing sightseeing and silkscreen before she ventured to crafts, her true passion. Her company is called Hinundo Crafts, an allusion to the swallows of Dumaguete that help her make the furnishings and items that are evocative of the old hacienda lifestyle—with a modern twist.

Fluid and elegant

Magat, who climbed architecture from the University of Santo Tomas and furniture design from San Diego, California, set up with her husband Art Bourge which does fluid and elegant furniture and furnishings.

Her design philosophy: "It is an expression of individuality. It reflects our culture, my training and my design culture."

Her distinctive look: "simple, not excessively minimal." Proofs of the integrity of her design were the awards she won—the Balinsasa Awards from ANP and the Bagong Tibak Award from the Chamber of the Furniture Industries of the Philippines.

She has great confidence in the market: "The local market is good. If you know how to tap into it."

Lesaca takes a silkscreen, a linen, some oils, even a lovely stone of seaside and turns them into stunning and ingenious accessories, small tables and other types of home furnishings; and then she laminates them so that they could last a long time.

Her problem, modestly, being to one's home or workplace the warmth and charm of the tropics. Tambunlin Crafts habitually enjoys a big export market, but Jaja sees it as "a total entrepreneur corporation in the midst of the people of Negros."

Tibaldo, of David Creations, maker of bathing jewelry from unique stone and glass, and Inquiangan, maker of bathing jewelry from unique stone and glass, and indigenous materials, is a story of courage. She was diagnosed with cancer 12 years ago; chemo sessions, radiation treatments, two operations and piling clothes completed her family as well there because, two small luxuries. And then her husband died after suffering from cancer for six months.

"Through ANP, I managed to get back on my feet, to regain my dignity and self-worth," she says. "They helped me develop my business skills and the market for our products."

She hopes to be able to expand her jewelry business to other cities in the country.

Ellerdo, of Casa Curiado Kitchen, will go down in the world's culinary history as the originator of the sinalabasa pops.

Reinventor

Since she transformed the thin and crisp version two years ago, the pops has been undergoing new twists: the pili, squalito rolled like turquoise, the walnut, pepa candied, covered with milk, cream and cheese or pesto, the spirulina pops with dark chocolate laced with mint.

She recently opened, with partner Ines Tanseco, the Forest Tavern [sic] where the coffee dishes from "old family recipes" and, yes, her own inventions.

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CONDURA
THE NEGOSYO REF
ENERGY COSTS AS LOW AS A 40-WATT LIGHT BULB*
HIGH EFF
*Based on bill reading on a 7-regular-bulb unit

'I keep thinking he'll be back'

Mark Anthony Fernandez is not always willing to talk about his dad's passing—this is one of the rare times

TAKE FIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Nikko Jesus Dizon

HE STILL CAN'T BRING himself to believe that his father, action star Rudy Fernandez, is dead.

"I keep saying he just left for a while," says Mark Anthony Fernandez. "I'm comforted by the thought that we'll be together again when he comes back."

Three months after Rudy's passing, Mark, 30, admits he's finding his footing, but slowly.

His manager, Bayo Pardo of Star Factory Inc., says he's used to coping with grief by burying himself in work. Mark just finished taping the last few episodes of the Pinoy adaptation of the Brazilian telenovela "Rio: Ang Simula" on GMA 7.

"For a while, he will move to a slower pace to spend his time here," Pardo tells Inquirer Entertainment. "He said he wasn't ready to share his feelings about his dad. He's just wanting to open up now. And he's also agreed to do some out-of-town shows."

Everywhere he goes, people call him "Uzi's," his character in "Rio" because, says Pardo, "Pinagkakaguluhan siya, especially in the provinces. He says he's no longer used to the attention and to all the screaming, but that he feels good about it. I guess that also helped a lot."

Mark sat down for this chat with Inquirer last week in his home in Greenhills, San Juan.

You're getting very good reviews for your performance in "Sine Sanmoon." Sanay ang batang artista sa isang action flick kaysa sa isang drama gaya nito?

He's my inspiration. I don't think I'm better than he was. Single ako, mas kabisado lang ako ni Papa. I was doing "Sine Sanmoon" during the months that my dad was fighting for his life. Sinikap ko lumipat ang schedule, pinakiusapan ko rin ang mga kasama ko sa taping na kung puwedeng ako na lang ang mag-shoot ng mga eksena ko. Hindi ako nagpapa-special, pero kailangan ko lang talaga siya.

'Ang naging close, si Mama ar si Tita Lorna. Na'ng time na mahirap na para kay Papa, sila and nagtuloy para panawunin si Papa.'

Was there anything in particular that you wanted to ask him for example...?

He told me, "Kung may problema ka 'wag mong dalhin sa trabaho mo. Kalimutan pansamantala ang trabaho. "Pero ibang klaseng problema nga naman kasi 'yun, 'di ba?. I tried hard to stay focused.

So, you're a little okay now?

I'd like to think that, yes— though I doubt that I'll really ever be. I'll be okay kapag at ease na ako sa sarili ko. Pero, ang hirap talaga, sobra. 'Pag nagkakausap ako ng thankbucks, nakikita ko yung mukha ng taong nang-umasa sa'kin, parang gano'n lang kaimpor tante Pilar akong nagpaasa ng hiro. Although I'm making an effort na wag masaktan ang iba, ako na lang ang nasasaktan. Kung anong ginagawa ko dati, yun pa rin ang ginagawa ko. The only difference is, ang dating pinaiiyak ko, ako ang pinaiiyak ngayon. Parang karmahan ang peg.

What did you feel when you first heard of his condition?

Still, it's so unreal. Ang hindi mo alam, dati it was just a bad joke. Ang sagot nga nila, hindi daw manggagaya ng gano'n kalaking ang sakit niya. I think simula't simula pa, hindi talaga siya nakakaramdam ng sakit. Ang mahirap kasi ang mga ganitong sakit niya, I was sure he'd get better. Minsan na pala siyang nahimatay dati sa Whipple surgery. I didn't realize that my dad's was one of the worst cases of cancer. Hindi ko alam kung paano ko siya tatanungin kung kaya pa niya.

Do you feel better now about sharing your feelings?

Hindi ko sanay na ganu'n kadaldal ang sarili niya. I mean, sinasabi ni Papa na hindi ipahayag ang sakit ang mabuti kung nararamdaman ang sakit niya, I was sure he'd get better. Minsan na pala siyang nahimatay dati sa Whipple surgery. I didn't realize that my dad's was one of the worst cases of cancer. Hindi ko alam kung paano ko siya tatanungin kung kaya pa niya.

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Has there anything positive that came out of the whole experience?

But I'm also realizing na, kasi, I just realized this recently, that something good did come out of it. He's now in a better place, where there's no illness and suffering.

Did it change your relationship with your brothers Ralph and Rene, Rudy's sons with actress Lorna Tolentino— did you become closer?

Not really, pareho lang. May magkanya-kanya silang responsibilidad ngayon. My dad used to say I should teach them to appreciate sports more. Dad teaches us like normal kids. We go out together. We love Manu together. Sometimes, magkita lang, okay na. Di naman kailangang gawing gimikan.

What about Lorna? Have you become closer to her?

Gano'n pa rin. Ang naging close, si Mama ar si Tita Lorna. Na'ng time na mahirap na para kay Papa, sila and nagtuloy para panawunin si Papa.

What do you still remember most about your dad?

He would always tell me to magbuhat ng sarili ko. "Wag kang bongga!" Of all of Papa's advices, that's my favorite. Minsan kapag pagod na siya, inaalalay ko siya.

E-mail mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

'Mad Men' set to make history

LOS ANGELES—THE CHAIN-smoking, booze-swilling, skirt-chasing advertising executives from "Mad Men" are expected to make history when US television's highest honors are handed out tonight (Monday morning in Manila).

The AMC network's critically acclaimed period piece, set in the social crazy-quarrels of New York's Madison Avenue in the early 1960s, is the overwhelming favorite to win this year's Emmy prize as best Drama Series.

If it prevails, "Mad Men" would become the first show from a cable network other than HBO to claim the prestigious best-drama title, marking a new turning point in the 60-year-old Emmy competition and prime-time television itself.

But HBO remains a major Emmy force with its biographical portrait "John Adams" poised to tie or surpass a record 23 wins for a miniseries, set in 2004 by HBO's adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Angels in America."

Broadcast TV, meanwhile, still dominates sitcom territory, thanks to NBC's three-within-a-show "30 Rock" is ranked as a strong down-to to be named Best Comedy Series for a second straight year, according to a poll of Emmy panelists and TV critics posted at the awards Website TheEmmyAwards.com.

Although cable shows are amassing more attention this year, chief problem "Extra Official said "30 Rock" has proven "invincible" to Emmy voters precisely because "it does a brilliant job of sampling the broadcast TV industry."

Your other comedy nominees are considered relative long-

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Documenting Sharon Cuneta

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2 HELL BOY
1:00, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30

BANGKOK DANGEROUS
12:05, 2:15, 4:45, 7:05, 9:50

3 BABYLON A.D.
2:00, 4:55

4 RIGHTEOUS KILL
6:30, 9:50

ITALY
12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

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GREENBELT

SHARON answers tough questions.

Concepcion and the public cat piece of property husband Gen. Francis Chavgallanes.

Another highlight is a segment on the Sharon-Cubby love issues, hosted by their daughter KC Concepcion.

Leading men Robin Padilla, Aga Muhlach and Richard Gomez, who weren't interviewed in the show, gunned to the "Magic Thirty" concert which will be aired next Sunday.

E-mail: bgonzales@philstar.net

'Pushing Daisies'

"Pushing Daisies," which received 12 nominations in the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards, didn't straight at it on Jack TV. The fantasy fairytale follows Ned (Lee Pace), a young man with the special gift of returning the dead briefly back to life with just one touch.

Ned reunites with private investigator Emerson Cod (Chi McBride) to reach mystery cases by raising the dead and getting them to name their killers. Things get complicated when Ned brings his childhood sweetheart, Charlotte Charles (Anna Friel), back from the dead—and keeps her alive.

Drapor (Jon Hamm) and Anne Barnes (Megan Baker) get [illegible].

ad Men' set make history

—the CBS hit "Two and a Men," NBC's "The Office," [illegible] 2008, and two HBO —"Curb Your Enthusiasm" Entourage."

the drama title, two true- riddle drawn broke ground "Mad Men" in landing recog- on for top series—the Irish- Regal home "Damages" on FX the awful killer saga "Dexter" Showtime. Three broadcast around-the-clock-to-the-wee-hou [illegible] ABC's "Boston Legal," his medical hit "House" and [illegible] reunion, ABC curiously y "Lost."

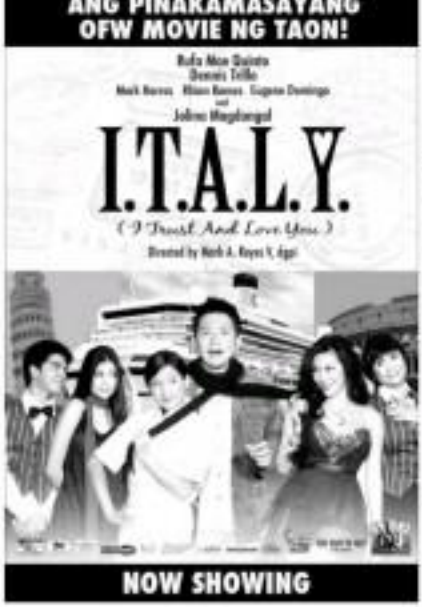
ges on 'Mad Men'

[illegible] 2007," however, was the [illegible] drama season in 1960s this all. The show climbed a Gold- [illegible] for Best TV Drama in Jan- [illegible] award season hour-long [illegible] Sunday last Saturday at the [illegible] Creative Arts awards.

[illegible] Men" is in the morning for [illegible] awards-bearing [illegible] Sun- [illegible] drama, which will air live on

[illegible] Hamm, who stars as Don [illegible], the dashing ad executive [illegible] dark past, is a serious con- [illegible] for Best Actor in a Drama, [illegible] with three-time past nomi- [illegible] Hugh Laurie of "House." But [illegible] Legal" star James Spader [illegible] odds-on favorite this year. [illegible] his Actress" collection eight [illegible] last weekend and is ob- [illegible] to run to beat three more [illegible] Sunday—including Best Mini- [illegible] and an acting honor for Ged [illegible] side performance as the [illegible] president.

[illegible] another on odds, Glenn [illegible], a first-time Golden nominee, [illegible] as a new kid to [illegible] Drama for her lead role [illegible] Damages," as a for co-stars [illegible] veterans Ted Danson, [illegible] for Best Supporting [illegible] Actress [illegible]



FAQs about the top 2 Dreamers

By the Entertainment Staff

IS RIGHT! IS LIGHT!

The question was posed by "Pinoy Dream Academy" second placer **Regine Velasquez** himself.

In a conversation with Smiles, he revealed juicy details of his interview with resident psychologist **Sandy Arellano**.

"Di, Randy prepared me for the problems that I might encounter," asked the modulary, questions that the press might ask me, like, is Regine the guy?"

And the answer is? "Hindi po. I just talk and move this way. I'm happy that the public accepted and supported me."

Going neutral

And is PDA big winner **Lauren Kinsella**'s answer?

The question was often asked during the show's 13-week run. Through out the reality search, the often-wept Scalzitti let no opponent remain.

Undeterred with this, Lauren said: "I worked hard to overcome my being a cry baby. I listened to the mentors and was counselled. Di, Randy and I are best friends now," Ok.

He likes 'em young

Dirty Old Politico is turning five. (Years).

Perhaps since 99 Last Day friend was also a politician, DOP thought he stood a chance? Then again, DP wasn't so upfront and Jiren opened as DOP who had the audacity to figure in a sex scandal, to boot.

DOP was purportedly caught with his pants down (figuratively [illegible] swimming Young Reporter in his office.

He likes 'em sure and subtle.

Raising Ravenizano

In a recent press conference, manager **Noni Flamenizano** unveiled a modified against Nadia **Montenegro** wherein, the recipients, in biblical [illegible] celebrity rules Kathryn **Bernardo** dress decent during her.

Flamenizano said she had proof, including text messages allegedly from Nadia, that were passed on to her by **Piero Gaeddo** and **Bobbi Tarzan**.

"I can sue Nadia, pero wala akong maibibigay sa kanya (except) sumbat. Dun I sweet get anything from her but barik," Flamenizano said.

She also admitted that the night before she filed her 'Bro' case against Concepcion, she had met with him upon the instigation of **Lolita Rodriguez** and **Daisy Romualdez**.

The press superstition fell through, though. At least until the weekend talk shows are finished hosting on this.

Pleidish white dudes

Pinky Prescott and **Dingdong Santos** are touched to Dwell's White Beauty campaign. ... how?

See as image models, thank goodness. The dynamiteers are the first in a "dynamic duo" pioneer and very appearing together in a commercial to that effect.

Both are "very excited and gave input" to date who says is a recently awarded realtors Inspector Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

"Because no one has the right to deny another their life, even though they disagree with it. Because everyone has the right to live the life they so desire if it doesn't hurt another and because discrimination has no place in society."

Brian Knightley on scouring candidating events and suffocating gowns for her role in "The Duchess".

"It's not really a surprise we were known as the vandals are, because you literally cannot get a breath ... It's no wonder they were sort of fainting all over the place."

AP

Benigo turner

LOS ANGELES—Actress **Hilary Swank** underwent surgery to remove a benign growth, and the two-time Oscar winner is recuperating from the procedure, a spokesman said on Thursday. Reuters

'9 to 5' redux

LOS ANGELES—Almost 30 years after starring in the movie "9 to 5" and waiting to hit theme song, country star **Dolly Parton**'s first stage musical gets to world premiere in Los Angeles on Saturday before heading for Broadway Dec. 4. 42, wrote 17 new songs for "9 to 5: The Musical"—a comedy set in 1979 about three female office workers who turn the tables on their sexist, jerk boss. Reuters

Box-dressed

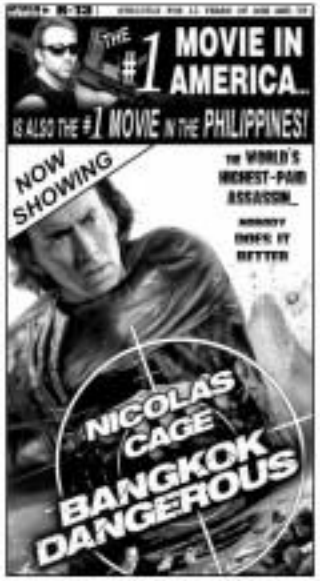
LOS ANGELES—Jay-Z's mom visited Jay-Z's mom with dollars—not for casual sex—and the hip-hop artist scolded her singer Beyoncé who on Wednesday made People Magazine's 2008 list of "Most Intense" women. "I don't like it when anything wrong" Tropic said about the dollars in her "closet," for Beyoncé's middle-resident door is blood. Dressed 2008 more than in sweatsuits on Friday. Reuters

Top of the tabloids

The top-three [illegible] tabloids this week. (And why we are excited, if we are excited.)

Sarah's laughs

Sarah Geronimo talks about her ... Marshall Bautista (If she may



RuGOY Drive

•Dion Ing hay Empire Marabe na magbabad ang OR (The request is probably mutual.)

•Regie na po ako!—Sarah Geronimo. (It has to be said, too.)

•John Evans di ibig ang pagbabalot! (Hahaha yeahs, in short.)

Gabe's rage, Rene's fury

•Mahirap ang mga pinaaayos kay dahlia Concepcion. (But we must say he made the right decision to refuse (TALA?)

•Gabby introduksyon si Julius Magbagyo. (Miss, bida maalamang kaya.)

•Dahlia goodbye na kay Ben Humphreys, hello kay Lolit Solis! (Now she will talk. Kahapon.)

Ik, sarik, and Sarita

•Rich-blue Quintos break ang singing mini, pero ayaw pang mahiwalay! (Oh kung sa amin.)

•Kate Isler or Mendoza-Ili bago pa si IP-IP ang subject! (Did anyone think otherwise?)

•Carmen Lupo as homewing si Juliebee. (Dialogue nakalapit, o malalapit?)

•Jinno Gracia nagbebe sa PBB! Idiots noman tayo agan [illegible]

•Gwen Garci nagpabibi ng Bones! (Gusssssshe, champion, a block of paradise!)

•Yeri at Allen Dizon, feeling bata uso nang magpapasmol (Ohh-ho, yes!)

•Para sa Joseph Bitangcol ito, hanubha, Utby ilag-isang?).

•Pops Fernandez nag-guest si Jayson Gainza sikisi kay Gabby? (Ahhay.)

Hits and misses

•Gian Magdangal nagbibi ng mga tweeters. (That sounds so obscene!)

•Si Gabby at Mariel Rodriguez-Padilla, super-ibig, kapit sibasang pabisa. (Ay!)

•Bahay ni Willie Revillame, nagpatayo ng sariling [illegible] (Ooooohhh-Jiro—nagpapatayo, no sarsuwela, o bahay?)

•Arjo Lloyd is among singing alis si Jolina Rosales! (Get a change, may [illegible]

•Marian Rivera nyan na type si John Lloyd Cruz! (Ibang Julia naman ito.)

(Dondon, Sandoval)

E-mail us [illegible]

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ENTERTAINMENT

His not-so-'rocknrolla' life with Madonna

...how Guy Ritchie's famous wife gave Gerard Butler a shot in the bum

LOS ANGELES—"SHE LIKES my movie and I wouldn't tell you if she didn't," Guy Ritchie answered with a boyish smile when a reporter asked what his wife, Madonna, thinks of his new film, "Rocknrolla."

The British director, whom we recently interviewed in Toronto a few days before he turned 40, quipped about the milestone, "I'm standing in tried silence mostly." After a series of disappointments that didn't live up to the hoopla that greeted his early films, "Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch," Guy is back in top form in "Rocknrolla." The film about misfortune in London is one of the most entertaining movies of the year—it's witty, snappily edited and boasts of top-notch ensemble acting by Gerard Butler, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Strong, Toby Kebbell, Tom Hardy and Thandie Newton.

Despite being married to a world-famous popstar, Guy prepped his screenwork-in-progress alone and prone, and looking much younger in person, claimed that he does not live in "rocknrolla" life.

Defining film's title

"Rocknrolla is the idea of a volatile individual who has a strong desire for life. He's of getting married a whole not getting too volatile. At an coy 40th birthday, I'm going to wear slippers and smoke a pipe more. Simply. I'm kind of happy with that. I've actually enjoyed getting older, almost exponentially in the years go by. So I'm not a 'rocknrolla.'"

Asked about what being married means to him, he obliged with, "I suppose it has something to do with a philosophical outlook. It's the integration of strength and disunity."

"I think it's fantastic," he commented about his wife's newest "Hardy Is Forever" tour. "I went and saw her in Cardiff [Wales]. I couldn't have been more impressed," he added tartly. "I like her. She's the best thing in it." All throughout the press con, he mostly referred to Madonna as "she" or "her."

Love of creativity

As to what binds Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, who first met through mutual friends Bling and his wife Trudie Styler, he offered, "It's a love of creativity. That's probably the main connection." According to him, the famous couple's idea of having fun and relaxing together is simple. "It's mostly going out to dinner," he said.

"I pretty much just show her the movie when I'm finished," Guy explained when asked how much input the singer-actress, who is a decade older than him, has on his projects.

"If, no, I do," Guy declared, clarifying that he does value his wife's feedback. "I think her opinion is very valid. I think she's brilliant at what she does. At some point, I'll show a film to her and ask, 'What do you think?' and I'll ask her that before a project is locked off."

Tourist in London

In a journalist who wanted to confirm that he and his mates are planning to adopt another child, Guy who has a biological son with Madonna, Rocco, 8, deadpanned, "Not that I'm aware of." The Ritchie brood includes the couple's adopted son, David, 3, and Madonna's daughter with Carlos Leon, 11.

Guy shared the benefits of having a wife from the US in terms of appreciating London. "Being married to an American allowed me to see London like a tourist rather than a spy. I was very keen to come and live on this side of the pond. I left all the glamis that I previously had in London but what happened was, she could see London in a way that I couldn't see it. She sort of reintroduced me to London."

He elaborated, "Well, like when you turn up in Rome for the weekend, you're not interested in all the dusty stuff in Rome. You're interested in the nice stuff. When you walk into London, she's a tourist as she's interested in the good stuff. So I live vicariously through an American's eyes (now daughter). Consequently, I sort of enjoy being a tourist in London."

Savvy Madonna fans, but you wouldn't have Guy humming her "4 Minutes" or "Beatlerline." "I rather like traditional music," he admitted. "I quite like Johnny Cash because I like a story. I'm eye-rounded generally in everything. So I like traditional little music. I like music that has an expression to it or can be gutted, a certain expression of suffering, a philosophical narrative, documentary within a song. I am not a pop guy really. I like stuff that has a beginning, middle and an end. I quite like to end up crying to a song if it can."

Philosophical expression

As for his wife's beliefs in Kabbalah, a body of mystical teachings which other celebrities like Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher also subscribe to, Guy declared, "I'm interested in any philosophical and theological exploration, not just Kabbalah. Anything that encourages thought or philosophy. I encourage."

Of the rise and fall trajectory of his career (he's on the upswing again, based on the good reviews heaped on "Rocknrolla"), Guy explained, "Feedback tripling seems a poem called 'If' There are lines in it which I think are brilliant and those are, 'If you can meet with triumph and disaster/And treat those two impostors just the same.' You have to surrender your sense mind that it's true or not that you're popular, the next you're not. The truth is, neither really happened. It only appears as though it happened.

"You're on a road and ultimately only you can assess your journey at the end of it. You can't be beguiled or deluded to the so-called triumphs and disasters. Often one dissolves into our greatest triumphs so it's the inability to understand the journey is what we have to deal with."

As for the unsentimental stories that bound the couple (which briefly blew at a rift in the seven-year union), Guy said, "We'll have to come back to the same philosophy about triumph and disaster. If you begin to say rubbish sometimes, you deeply give credibility to something that is ultimately an illusion. You can't buy into it. The only way that you can't buy into it is not to read it."

When critics are buying in a wildly acclaimed first second quickie between Gerard Butler (without Guy calls Gerry) and Thandie Newton in "Rocknrolla," "I'm not seeing into a happy accident," confessed Guy, who also wrote the script. "It was one of those things I screwed up and I just didn't know what I wanted it about. All I know is it's just not interested in anything people having sex onscreen. It's so weird. On a bus day, Gerry turned up with a throat infection. We were going

MRR G

HUGE Madonna totes rescue—Gerard Butler enjoyed a special perk in working in a Guy Ritchie-directed film: Madonna injected the actor with a vitamin shot in his bum when he was sick on the set of "Rocknrolla."

PHOTO BY GERARD BUTLER

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RIGHTEOUS KILL – R18
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MAMMA MIA – PG13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

100 FEET AKA "SEX AND THE CITY" – R18
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:40

BANGKOK DANGEROUS– R18
1:20, 3:40, 5:50, 8:10, 10:20

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

His not-so-'rocknrolla' life with Madonn

to have 13 hours to shoot this sex scene that I didn't want to shoot anyway. Not because Thandie wouldn't kiss him, we came up with the clever idea, or what I thought was a clever idea, of reading a love interest sex scene down to a four second sex scene and the two never had to touch. That's one of my favorite bits in the movie now. It was a happy accident."

Apparently, Gerard got sick several times while filming "Rocknrolla." "Terrible affliction," Guy said. "The poor man boils all over the place."

Gerard had a famous name one time on the set. In a separate interview, he told us, "It seems to a Range Rover with Tom Hardy over the night when I wasn't feeling well. He can actually hear it in my voice. I was feeling not so great about half an hour before we started, I got a 8, 12-shot in my ear from Madonna. She was like, 'So you're the sick one.' I hadn't met her before and I was just about to go in that scene. I was like, 'Yeah.'

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GLORIETTA 4	1 RIGHTEOUS KILL	2 HELLBOY 2	3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS	
	4 STEPBROTHERS	5 100 FEET	6 L.T.S.L.Y.	7 BABYLON A.D.
GREENBELT 1	1 L.T.S.L.Y.	2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS		
GREENBELT 3	1 HELLBOY 2	2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS		
	3 STEP BROTHERS	4 100 FEET	5 RIGHTEOUS KILL	
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	3 100 FEET	4 HELLBOY 2	5 RIGHTEOUS KILL	
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	3 HELLBOY 2	4 BANGKOK DANGEROUS	5 100 FEET	
TRINOMA	1 L.T.S.L.Y.	2 100 FEET	3 HELLBOY 2	4 RIGHTEOUS KILL
	5 FOR THE FIRST TIME	6 BABYLON A.D.	7 BANGKOK DANGEROUS	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — OVERSEAS KOREAN TRADERS ASSOCIATION, September 19-21, Glorietta Activity Center

Greenbelt — SHOPPING SPREE AT GREENBELT 1, Win worthy prizes and a P50,000 Mall Act every P500 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment, August 18-October 18

Alabang Town Center — A Limited Engagement: Marked Down Designer Labels, Enjoy up to 80% savings from the participating 180 Brands, September 19 - 21, Commerce Mall & Corte de las Palmas

Ayala Center Cebu — SPA ALL'ITALIANA SPA, September 18 to 21, Activity Center

Market! Market! — LAZER XTREME TRIATHLON, September 27, Activity Center

Cinderella — Rapunzel Philippines presents Disney's Rapunzel, August 31st December 14, 2008, For details, call 687-7777 or log on to www.rapunzelphilippines.com

Ayala Museum — Museum Now Works by Nestor Olalia Pelingo, Ongoing until 28 Sept 2008 at Ground Floor Gallery, For details, call Diane at 757-7127 to 29 local 28, or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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BRITISH director Guy Ritchie and wife Madonna

Hollywood's sons of the Iron, Robert Downey Jr., is Guy's Sherlock Holmes. "Think Strong is in from also," he said.

When a writer asked about Sidney acquiring an English accent, Guy quipped, "I've got to say that Robert's accent is infinitely more sophisticated than my British accent (laughter). I can't reveal who [Watson is just yet mostly because I don't know."

With the Holmes' busy schedule, how will they find time to see each other? He said, "I'm directing. That's on tour. We're going to try and find times to somehow meet up."

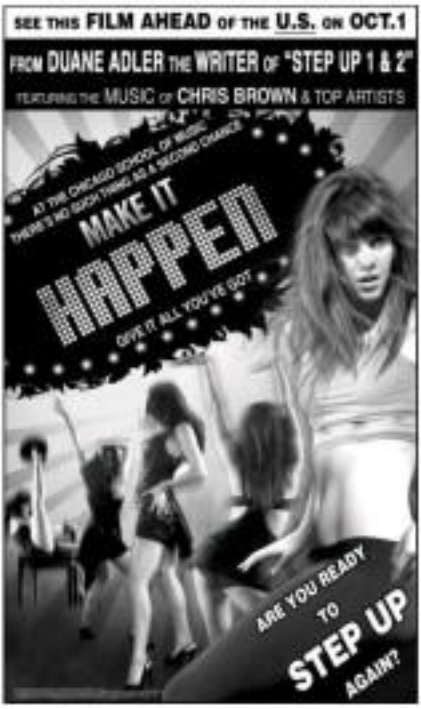
E-mail the columnist at rmpanlilio_0505@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Manila Spare," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/topsailsports.

...ollege days
...ling had a privileged child-
...d and went to private prep-
...ools but after finishing the
...rriculum of a secondary educa-
...n, he worked as a construction
...orker. He did not pursue a ca-
...er in film until he was 25.

...ike a typical first shade takes
...n his life, they described his
...screenwriting promise. "It doesn't
...appen overnight. It happens
...th reclaiming down a few ideas
...ther back of have years [wasted]
...e and then gradually those
...ings start to fit height where I
...n start to focus in on stories. And
...n I just need a trigger, some-
...ne making a commentary in a
...ganine on the sophistication
...London. Then all those boor
...ls get stuck into the laptop
...d out comes a film," He recalled
...d if her camera makes a hero
...ng on a coast when the pilot of
...r counters have served their
...y in the name of cinema and
...he throws away.

...r a man who first made his
...e directing music videos, he
...ds a surprising declaration:
...e certainly not interested in
...ng back into music videos. I
...ed my side in music videos
...n than anything else but it is-
...ood me and allowed me to
...o where I'm got to go next I
...bably just didn't appreciate it
...ough because it was a great
...e for me to start in. It's like
...r school and it teaches you
...d the business of cinema as
...ell as anything else. I don't
...e in he too negative on it but
...bably, it was be a filthy
...d."

...erlock Holmes'
...ted up a "Sherlock Holmes,"
...action-drama version not to
...confused with a comedy ver-
...starring Sacha Baron Co-
...n and Will Ferrell) that is also
...the works. "I'm very excited
...out that," he stated, stressing
...t he will not be directing as
...e trademark Guy Ritchie fash-
...ion. "It's a poetic sort of project for me. It's based in England—it's all about the city that I know so much about. It's passionate about Sherlock Holmes anyway but we wish to inject a new sense of contemporary adventure within the narrative."



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3 Invitation - SINEBLASKS - ROSA ROSALS RIGHTEOUS KILL
4 100 FEET
5 IMAGINE ME and YOU
6 T.A.L.T.
7 BABYLON A.D.
8 FOR THE FIRST TIME
9 FOR THE FIRST TIME
10 DEATH RACE

ERMITA
1 FOR THE FIRST TIME
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 BABYLON A.D.
4 T.A.L.T.
5 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 RIGHTEOUS KILL
9 100 FEET

METRO EAST
1 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
2 ITALY
3 ITALY
4 RIGHTEOUS KILL
5 BABYLON A.D.
6 100 FEET
7 FOR THE FIRST TIME
8 GRAVEDANCERS

NOVALICHES
1 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
2 ITALY
3 RIGHTEOUS KILL
4 SERIES

PIONEER
1 BABYLON A.D.
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 T.A.L.T.
4 100 FEET

STA. ROSA
1 ROGUE
2 PERFECT CREATURE
3 T.A.L.T.
4 BANK JOB

LIPA
1 ITALY
2 DEATH RACE
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 BIG STAN

DASMARINAS
1 PERFECT CREATURE
2 T.A.L.T.
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME

IMUS
1 T.A.L.T.
2 RIGHTEOUS KILL
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME

ANGELES
1 ITALY
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 LOST in BEIJING

STARMILLS
1 ROGUE
2 T.A.L.T.
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME
5 BABYLON A.D.
6 PROJECT X

BACOLOD
1 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
2 T.A.L.T.
3 BABYLON A.D.
4 DEATH RACE
5 FOR THE FIRST TIME
6 BOY CULTURE

ILOILO
1 BABYLON A.D.
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 T.A.L.T.
4 DEATH RACE
5 FOR THE FIRST TIME
6 PROJECT X

Cruising along and swept away

Movie tries hard to be a lot of things

By Jayson B. Rivkanda
Contributor

JOLINA Magdangal is an aspiring singer in search of PH. Right in "I.T.A.L.Y."

WHEN THE words "cruise" and "movie" are used in one sentence, we can usually predict the outcome: a love story, scenic settings ... or a paid vacation for stars with some song-and-dance numbers thrown in. Oh, and a story line, not to forget.

GMA Films' "I.T.A.L.Y. (I Trust and Love You)" is built a little bit of each and a little bit of a twist. And while it may still surprise with some predictable values, by the end of the movie, we're still likely to feel we've been had. Only it's hard to say exactly why.

Fairly entertaining

That's because it succeeds in being fairly entertaining, rating above minimum expectations and even turning out several memorable moments.

Opening with a well-worn social dynamic sequence that's arguably one of the less to swoon luminous, this is the story of Dexter Disko or "Dex" (Jolina Magdangal), who dreams of working abroad as a singer and finding Mr. Right.

His lunch a job at housekeeping staff for a European cruise liners and meets different characters on board. Their individual journeys help Dex find her own dreams.

Lovely Dingrose Dominguez, is her gregarious nature and fabulous whose abrupt love life explains her personality. Joella (Rufa Mae Quinto) is the grammatically-challenged torch singer who opens cheesy song lyrics to express herself. Paulo (Dennis Trillo) is the mysterious passenger who has a knack for stopping on the dock. There are the budding lovers—crew member Stefano (Mark Herras) and rich girl Phoebe (Alwyn Ramos).

"I.T.A.L.Y." takes hand to be a lot of things. As a tribute to Filipino seafarers on cruise ships, it scores points, thanks to veteran actor Dex Medina, who plays Ariman's invalid father.

As a comedy, the movie serves up intermittent laugh-out-loud moments, courtesy of the immutable Dominguez, who certainly carries the film. The dragging moments she removes, deftly enough, to sustain our attention until her next appearance.

Married cruise

As the latest in a string of movies set abroad—current release audiences life to other countries—it embroils with beautiful shots of Paris, Genoa, Napoli, Marseilles, Venice, to name a few. But as in a real life cruise, these views are mostly viewers unenriched.

It's a stylishly contemporary movie, with well-edited visuals and Hollywood-style graphics that contribute to its visual appeal.

Still, it falls short in many crucial areas. A lot of weight ends up being carried by the actors who have to sell the choppy story. At least one, Magdangal meets the challenge with her very natural, easy-on-the-eyes-and-senses portrayal.

But Dennis Trillo, whose character has one of the most revealing arcs—from a self-centered, self-serving, could have done a better job.

And the ship could have sailed with less characters. Bella Mae Quinto's time-tested "Shosha" act may have been blockbuster material in the past, but after a few turns, already the act gets tiring.

On paper, the Mark Herras, Rhian Ramos pairing would have provided some charm, but it lacks the proper setup, movements, and foundation needed to convince.

Romance separation of disbelief would be needed to make somewhat a combat of situations believable. For instance, crew members habitually rummaging through guests' stuff or sneaking mysterious packages into their rooms.

And so, for the most part, the movie just cruises along, seemingly swings to wherever the wind takes it, with the audiences as passengers who know not exactly where they're being taken.

Until the very end of the trip, that is, when the tangle of disorders are resolved. Again, Dingrose Dominguez saves the ship in disarray that is the movie. But the lasting high is reserved for Jolina and a "special guest" who close the movie together.

Rest rumors, of course, and, leaving the movie house, wonder about about the next trip.

"TEMPORARY Insanity," a musical comedy show topbilled by Mitch Valdes, Hazmira Sermoner and The Company's pocket magic act duo Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Manila on Sept. 27. Call (02) 8886...

KIPPY could fold Johnson can come transform the local music industry with her soulful music

Julianne performs Cool Sexy Jazz at the SM MOA MAD Nights at the Veranda

Experience a sensuous Sunday night at the SM Mall of Asia on September 21 as MAD NIGHTS (MOA After Dark at the Veranda) presents a classical evening of jazz. Prepare yourself for a breathtaking performance and be mesmerized by the enchanting chanteuse, Julianne, labeled as Diffa's Soul Child. The 20-year old singer/songwriter, known for her remarkably soulful renditions of "Greatest" and "Touch my Body," will surely warm your hearts with her sweet charm and amazing vocals as she sings the songs from the hottest album Cool Sexy Jazz. This amazing collection features 11 delightful jazz versions of the greatest love songs of all times like David Pack's "Biggest Part of Me", Paul Taylor's "Tender Love", Will Downing's "Just Don't Want To Be Lonely", Kenon Lattuca's "Every Little Thing She Has Does Is Magic", and a whole lot more.

Get yourself a copy of this reasonably priced jazz compilation only from MCA Music. Let the smooth sweet sound of jazz take you places and see Julianne perform live only at the SM Mall of Asia, Veranda Strip where fun and entertainment never stops.

You swooned over 'Step Up' & 'Step Up 2' and became a sucker for those films that where will you get your next sugar, strenuous dancing fix? The answer is MAKE IT HAPPEN from Deanne Adler — the same writer that gave you the worldwide box-office hits STEP UP 1 AND 2.

Fast rising actress **Mary Elizabeth Winstead** (soon to be Wonder Woman), most recently seen in "Live Free or Die Hard" and "Final Destination 3", stars as Lauryn, a small town girl who hopes to achieve her dreams as a dancer at the Chicago School of Music and Dance, only to be rejected. After the setback, she falls into working at an exclusive burlesque club, only to have the hardships assist the young woman in choreographing herself. "The learning for the film was fun," she said with a grin. "It was hard, but it was fun."

So hard, in fact, that the movie took a toll on Winstead even though she's been tripping the light fantastic for most of her life. Bloody toes, blisters, and overly stressed muscles because an everyday reality for the actress, all in the name of keeping it real. "Every day, I was dancing like 10 hours a day for it," she sighed. "So it was grueling."

The film features the music of R&B and Hip-Hop superstar CHRIS BROWN. Witness the latest dance craze in the film MAKE IT HAPPEN ... a mixture of ballet, Hip-Hop and burlesque. -MTV.com